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ADDRESS OF REV. JAMES H. BALLAGH, OF JAPAN, AT THE SIXTY-THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY.

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN OF THE SOCIETY, —I wish to thank you for inviting me to be present at this anniversary feast in the City of New York, when, by a happy coincidence, the North and the South of our once estranged but now reunited country dwell together in harmony and peace ; and when the distant extremes of the East and West, of the vast continent of Asia, the birthplace of the human race, the cradle of Christianity, and the home of this divine revelation from God to man—viz., representatives of Turkey and Japan—meet here together, in this metropolis of the Western world, to bear testimony to the permanency of that word of the Lord which liveth and abideth for ever.

The story of the Book in the island empire of Japan, my friends, which only covers a history of twenty years, is short and briefly told ; but in these twenty years great things have been wrought by the power of this Book : and time would fail even to summarize those results. Let me just show you some instances of the power of the word upon the human heart without any foreign teacher. You have heard that the Bible is a missionary ; you have heard that it goes where the missionary cannot enter. Now see the truthfulness of that statement in these incidents.

In the capital of Japan, a young man of good family and good education obtained a copy of a geography published in the Chinese language by an American missionary, and in the opening sentence of that geography he read these words : "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth"—an excellent introduction to a system of geography. I am afraid it would hardly be tolerated in this Christian land, but in a heathen land it would pass. These words were the entrance of light to his soul. He went no further : he looked not over the earth's surface to see how it was divided, to see where its population and cities were, but he paused at the very threshold to