

## British and Foreign.

We regret that we were unable to present, at an earlier date, the following extracts from speeches delivered at the recent Anniversary of the Parent Society, and are now, from our limited space, compelled to furnish them in briefer form than we would otherwise wish to do.

The CHAIRMAN, the Right Hon. the Earl of SHAFTESBURY, President of the Society, introduced the business of the meeting very briefly as follows:—

“The Report you have just heard is one of the most valuable in the history of this Institution. It has occupied, and very justly occupied, a very great deal of time. I think therefore the best thing we can do is to proceed as soon as possible to the speeches in support of it, the more so as I have before me a list of eminent men who are to address you, many of whose voices you have never heard before, while the voice of the Chairman you have heard very frequently, and perhaps too often.”

The first resolution, referring to the adoption of the Report, was presented by the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, seconded by the Rev. Dr. Duff, and supported by the Rev. Dr. Wilson, from Bombay,

The BISHOP of GLOUCESTER and BRISTOL—“My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen: The Resolution that has been committed to me is, ‘That the Report, an abstract of which has been read, be received and printed under the direction of the Committee.’ I do not think I can commence the few words that I shall have the honour of addressing to you better than by expressing how deeply I feel the honour of having a resolution so important as that which I have just read committed to me, and the more so when I say frankly, in confirmation of the gentle hint given by our noble Chairman, that I have never stood upon this platform, that I have never raised my voice in this hall, before the present moment, and that I have never before pleaded for this great and good cause. After making such an avowal, I must be conscious that I have suggested to many of those whom I have now the honour of addressing, two questions which, for the cause of your good Society, not for myself, I shall very shortly answer—Why not here before? Why here now? I shall make bold to answer those two difficult questions, as I said, not in the least degree for myself, but that you may know that there is one speaking now to you who has his whole heart in the cause; that I am now speaking from a reality and a depth of conviction, and that I rejoice so to speak. My friends, the reason why I have not been here before is simply this—I fear not to say it anywhere—that ‘I was not fully persuaded in my own mind,’ and I would have every one, if I may humbly give the advice, so to be, in every cause he advocates. I was not ‘fully persuaded’ because I doubted (I speak it openly) of the breadth and the nature of the co-operation. The Society seemed to me to be too inclusive. But last year it pleased God that a change should come in my opinions on this important particular. And thus it came about. Last year the Convocation of the Province of Canterbury called me and others, a broad and mingled body, to take part in the revision of the authorized Scriptures. I joined that body, and I threw into it all my humble interest; and having done so, I felt it a duty to reconsider my whole position with reference to this great Society; and I may now frankly say to you that after that decision my first visit was to your noble building, the Bible Society’s House. I went up into the spacious library; I looked round it; I surveyed its various treasures, and I felt that, after the