

"The path of the Bible is not like the path of the infidel production—a steep descent to dark oblivion—but it is like the path of those who are justified by its faith, which is as 'the shining light which shineth more and more until the perfect day.' In some old Bible of your grandfather, between the leaves which enclose some cherished passage that had often cheered the old man's heart, there is, perhaps, a little relic of the past—

'Tis but a little faded flower'

The colour is gone, but a good deal of the form is still there. You must touch it very tenderly, or it will crumble into dust and be all gone. It abides, after a fashion, as most human things abide, it does not live and abide as Divine things live and abide. But the promise, over against which the little faded flower is lying, not only abides, but lives—lives! It lives in ten thousand hearts as well as in yours, as rich in colour, as fresh in fragrance, as delightful to the soul as ever it was. 'All flesh is grass,'—and even our reviewers come under that head—'All flesh is grass, and all the goodness thereof is as the flower of the field. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away; but the Word of the Lord endureth for ever.' The Word of God is not like that of Demosthenes or of Cicero, whose speeches may still move to admiration, but can no longer lead men on to action as in the days when they were fresh and strong. The Word of God lives and breathes; lives with the life and breathes with the breath of the Spirit of the living God. This is the secret of its perennial freshness; this is the secret of its immortal youth. 'It is the Spirit that quickeneth.' 'The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life.' Of Homer, and Virgil, and Dante, and Milton; of Aristotle, and Seneca, and Descartes, and Bacon; of Demosthenes, and Cicero, and Burke—it may be said, 'he, being dead, yet speaketh;' but of the Author of the Bible, and of Him alone, it can be said, 'He, being alive, yet speaketh.' 'The mighty God, even the Lord, hath spoken.' And speaketh still: 'I am He that doth speak; behold it is I.' The Spirit of God may use, and often does use, other books; but He identifies himself with the Bible. He makes it vocal with His loving voice, and vital with His living power. He breathes through it on the living soul, and thus communicates the life eternal. And so the work of this Society is not that of a mere publishing firm. It is a great missionary work. This Society is called of God to the grandest missionary work—called of God to send forth His light and His truth, His Word of ever-fresh and living power, to the ends of the earth. Therefore I heartily support this Resolution."

The Rev. E. LEWIS (Bellary).—"I cannot but feel at home in any assembly where the work of the Bible Society is a topic of conversation or of advocacy. For more than eighteen years past I have had much to do with the circulation of the Scriptures—that good old Book of which we have heard this morning—in various parts of the Madras Presidency in India. * * *

"We wish to speak a little of our own experience, and to lay before you a few simple facts connected with the work of Bible circulation, feeling persuaded that facts will show, far more effectually than any speculations we could offer, the glory of the work in which we are engaged, and the necessity which is laid upon us to carry on that work in the future. Very early in my missionary career I saw the necessity of distributing the Scriptures wherever I preached. On various occasions people would say to me, after preaching, 'We have heard your words; they have approved themselves to us; but you are about to leave us, and when you are gone we want to think about them, and study them, and talk about them among ourselves. In case of doubt or difficulty to whom shall we refer? We want a book—an authoritative book—a book that we can read for ourselves and study closely, so that we may not forget the main points.' I need hardly say that we felt there was no