

who fifty years ago laid the foundations of this Society, and for the preservation of their lives during all those years of exposure, of toil and danger, and of the executive and administrative talents necessary to carry on so large and so important an interest, and of the untold benefits this Society has been to the whole Dominion. The Society has risen from small beginnings, until now its influence was felt throughout the whole land. The blessing of God has been vouchsafed in a marked manner, and to such a degree that the income had increased from \$640, the returns of the first year, until now, as we have heard from the Report, the income was over \$118,600, a fact which would call forth a grateful response from many hearts. We ought to remember that we are now reaping the fruits of the seed sown by men who sacrificed home, and ease, and even life in the cause of God. The early history of those labors and sacrifices would never be forgotten. While we rejoice over the successes of the past, and show our gratitude, we must look at our responsibility, and prepare for the work of the future. 'Tis ours, while we celebrate the jubilee of this Society, to enquire what have we to do in reference to the fifty years that are coming. As our fathers stamped an impress on the past, and shaped public sentiment, and gave direction to thought and action by their deeds of self-sacrifice, so we may, if faithful to ourselves and this Society, accomplish much for the future. It is not easy always to ascertain the full measure of our responsibility. It is generally admitted that "possession is the measure of our responsibility." If so, we may, in some humble way, form a correct opinion of ours. What we have of brain power, nerve power, heart power, moral or material power, for that we are responsible God has given us various talents of wealth, of health, of ability, of influence, for which he holds us responsible. We have committed to our trust the only light that can dispel the mental and moral gloom of heathen darkness. In the Word of God we find the only remedy for man's ignorance and guilt. The great systems of Eastern superstition, now hoary with age, are to be removed by the

bright light of truth as it is in Jesus. No other power can break those fetters, or lift those nations into light and liberty. Our duty is imperative. "Shall we, whose souls are lighted with wisdom from on high?" We have, through the providence and grace of God, the men to go and carry that word. It is a cause of thankfulness that when God opens the door to the north or west, or far west, or to Japan, and the Committee wants a man, the man is forthcoming, ready to go with the Bible in his hand, and the love of God in his heart, to preach Christ in the regions beyond. The Church will always have the men if she maintain the life and power of God in her heart; men for every kind of work and for every opening field. We have facilities for travel and for the circulation of the Word of God, and for the study of languages, for the promotion of the work of God in every department, such as our fathers never heard of. Franklin did well in his day to throw off from his printing press 2,000 copies a day. The improvements in the art of printing enable us to throw off 20,000 copies an hour. Then we have the wealth necessary to avail ourselves of those advantages. God has given to those great Christian nations the gold and the silver of earth. The vast reservoirs of wealth are in the possession of those who profess His name. In our own Church, we have men of position, influence, and wealth, upon whom God has been pouring the spirit of giving—and some do it in a princely way. We need to feel that increased wealth increases responsibility. The speaker referred to the knowledge and experience acquired during the years of the past, and to the favorable positions secured, as offering great advantages to future conquests. Also to the confidence won by the Society. He read a letter from the late Duke of Newcastle, highly complimentary to the Wesleyan missionaries in the South Seas; also to the power of the Gospel, as illustrated in the conversion and life of the King of the Friendly Islands. The speaker urged most effectively the duty of more earnest prayer, of more renewed and unreserved consecration of property and life to God and his work.