

been replaced by atheism, materialism, and a brutal indifference to the concerns of the soul. This was the case even among the enlightened classes of France, and this it is which caused our country to proceed to such deplorable lengths at the close of the sixteenth century.

"We would wish that the various communions, actuated by a spirit of Christian emulation, should inundate France with Bibles, being persuaded that in spite of the variations of translation—which become dogmatic contradictions in the eyes of theological a. s., but the subtlety of which is not perceived by simple minds—a sufficient portion of the divine flame remains in the venerated book to elevate the understanding of the people, and to nourish and purify in them a feeling of moral responsibility."

The editor of that excellent periodical, the *Book and its Missions*, from which the extracts are taken, remarks thus—

"This is certainly a remarkable article as issuing from the Roman Catholic press, and it has apparently done more to advance the cause of the Bible than any defence that might have been attempted by its friends. It has fixed attention on the steps of the humble Bible colporteur, even greater than that bestowed on the late Imperial pilgrimage to Brittany."

The President then alluded to the wide field opening to the Society's operations in China, Japan, and India, and said the collection to be made during the evening was devoted to the special Bible Fund for India. He would only add that the claims of that country would be advocated by his very eloquent brother, Mr. Justice Wilmot, who, at the request of the Committee, had kindly consented to afford them his efficient aid on this occasion.

The President concluded a longer than usual address by an appeal to his clerical and lay friends surrounding him on the platform, and to the vast assembly before him, composed of members of all the Protestant churches in the city and its vicinity, to testify to this epoch, the completion of their forty years' labour, whether, in the providence of God, what had in the commencement been apprehended as an obstruction to their union and harmonious co-operation, and by some considered an almost insurmountable obstacle to their progress, was not now almost universally admitted to be a benefit and blessing. It was a great, though certainly only an incidental advantage, that year by year there should be this public assemblage of those who, though differing in some things, do agree on the fundamental principles of religion, and look to the Bible as the true and only standard of their faith, and as the charter of their everlasting Salvation.

The following are the Resolutions which were passed at the Meeting:—

1. Moved by the Revd. WM. ALVES, A. M., seconded by the Rev. Mr. ALBRIGHTON:

Resolved,—That the Report, an abstract of which has just been read, be received, printed, and circulated under the direction of the committee: and that the following gentlemen do compose the committee for the current year:—[See list of Office Bearers in a preceding page.]

2. Moved by Hon. Justice WILMOT seconded by JOHN BORN, Esq.:

Resolved,—That while this meeting learns with the highest satisfaction that the Parent Society has originated a special Bible Fund for India, and