

T H E JUBILEE REMEMBRANCER.

Published by the Jubilee Committee of the Nova Scotia Auxiliary of the
BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

HALIFAX, NOVA-SCOTIA, OCTOBER, 1853.

JUBILEE OF THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

The Jubilee Meeting in behalf of the British and Foreign Bible Society was held at Temperance Hall on Wednesday evening the 12th instant,—the Hon. the CHIEF JUSTICE in the Chair.

After singing three verses of the Jubilee Hymn, and prayer by the Rev. Mr. FORRESTER, the business of the evening commenced by the following Address from the venerable Chairman:—

Ladies and Gentlemen,—When I look up and me from this Chair, and see so many Members of this Society who have for years been its zealous and able supporters, I cannot help asking myself, "Why am I seated here?" When your Committee waited upon me to honor me with a request to preside at this meeting, I reminded them that I was not a Member of the Society, and stated that there were many old and respectable Members of the British and Foreign Bible Society to whom that compliment should be paid in preference to me. They replied, that although I had not heretofore been a Member, they hoped I should be induced to become one by the perusal of papers which they then presented to me, and were pleased to add, that it was their desire upon this interesting occasion to see the Chair filled by a person of my age and standing in this community.

As they urged this request with some earnestness, I thought it would be unbecoming in me to refuse it without taking it into consideration, and promised to give them an answer on the following day. After a day's consideration, I determined to join the Bible Society, and to comply with the request with which the Committee had honoured me of presiding at this Jubilee Meeting.

Fifty years, to the majority of those now before me, doubtless appears a long, long period to look back upon. To me the recollection of the circumstances that attended the formation of this Society is as vivid as if it had been formed during the past year. The arguments of its advocates and its opponents are still fresh in my memory. I will not detain you by detailing the arguments then used in its favour. The same arguments continue to be used for its support, and they

will be ably urged upon you in the course of the evening; but not having been one of its early supporters, in justice to myself and to many worthy and pious persons who also declined supporting it, I feel it right to state the views which were then taken of the proposal to form a coalition of all denominations of Christians to circulate the Bible without note or comment.

We saw professing Christians so much divided upon many points of doctrine, that they would not meet to worship God in the same building; and it was doubted whether, when that was the case, they would unite for any religious object, without such a compromise of principle as would lead to confusion, indifference and infidelity. Our feelings, our interests, we may sacrifice if we please, in order to live peaceably with others, but Religious principles are too sacred to become the subject of compromise.

Such were the conscientious and cautious views which were taken upon this subject by most of the Pastors and many of the members of the Church of England—nor should such caution be censured. If it may sometimes retard the progress of improvement, it often prevents the rash adoption of error.

Happily, however, experience has shown us that those who profess the fundamental truths of Religion, although differing upon minor points, may safely unite to circulate the word of God, without entering upon those doubtful disputations which the great Apostle to the Gentiles deprecates in the 14th chapter of his Epistle to the Romans. The result has already been produced by the Bible Society, and with the Divine Blessing it may effect a more intimate union among the members of the Church of Christ. Subjects of the Redeemer's Kingdom, Soldiers of the Cross, may continue to fight under the same Banner, although they may not all wear precisely the same uniform.

When we look back upon the fifty years which have nearly passed since the origin of this Society, what wonderful progress has Science made during that period. The earth and the ocean are traversed with a celerity which it would then have been deemed madness to predict. Blessed be God, His Word is advancing with almost equal rapidity, and this Society has been made the honored instrument of spreading it abroad. Little of an opposition to it now exists. The venerable and pious Primate of the English Church

with many of our Prelates and Clergy, have not only ceased their opposition, but have become its advocates, and I hope that the whole body of the Church will follow their example,—and may this Society continue its exertions until, with the blessings of God upon its labors, the whole earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

The following Statement—drawn up for the occasion and read by the Secretary, S. L. SHANNON, Esquire—was listened to with the most lively interest:—

The Committee of the Nova Scotia Bible Society, in commemorating this day the Jubilee of the British and Foreign Bible Society, beg leave to lay before their patrons and friends the following statement.

They would in the first place render their devout acknowledgements to the Almighty Disposer of all events, that He has in His kind providence enabled them to witness the present joyful occasion, and they would cordially congratulate their friends that so great a privilege has been afforded them of taking part in its proceedings.—The trumpet of Jubilee is now sounding: Its notes extend throughout a great portion of the habitable globe—not confined as of yore to a limited territory; it now proclaims its glad tidings to myriads of every nation and clime, of every language and hue. It utters no uncertain sound, for it heralds the glorious liberty which all may enjoy who embrace the truths contained in that blessed book, which it is the high vocation of the Bible Society to disseminate throughout the world.

On this day of Jubilee then, when so many hearts are united in ascriptions of praise to the Giver of every good and perfect gift, for the blessings conferred by Him upon the human race, through the instrumentality of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and its kindred associations, your Committee deem it appropriate to the occasion, to advert briefly to the history of the parent Society, before they proceed to refer particularly to the action of our own Auxiliary.

The British and Foreign Bible Society commenced its existence in the year 1804. The immediate cause of its origination was the great destitution of the Scriptures which prevailed in the Principality of Wales. So grievous had this become that at last it was brought to the notice of the Religious Tract Society, at one of its meetings by the Rev. J. Charles, of Bala, who had been deeply impressed with the necessity of adopting measures of relief. When appealing to the Tract Society, the thought was suggested—may we not truly say by the Holy Spirit—to the Rev. J. Hughes, one of the parties present,