

An application for a grant of Bibles for the Gaol, was received from the city missionary, Mr. Robt. Hall, and referred to the Secretaries with power to act.

An application from the Superintendent of Methodist Church Missions, for a grant of Bibles for Indian schools, was also referred to the Secretaries to obtain further information and report.

The meeting was closed with prayer by the Rev. Dr. Williams.

ADDRESS BY THE LATE REV. HENRY VENN.

DELIVERED IN MAY, 1861.

(A Reproduction.)

[The Rev. Henry Venn, B.D., was honorary clerical secretary of the Church Missionary Society from 1819 until his death in 1873. He was a man of large sympathies and great executive ability, but he seldom spoke in public, and a remarkable exception to this habit was the address which follows, and which appears in the Memoir of his Life, by the Rev. Wm. Knight. Many years have passed since it was spoken, but years have not lessened its value, and we are glad to reproduce it at this time, as containing so forcible a statement of principles, so clear a recognition of the importance of uniting all Christian people in Bible distribution, and so candid in the tribute paid the society on whose behalf he spoke, as not the handmaid but the royal benefactor of all missionary societies, and justly entitled to take precedence of them all.]

When I was invited by your committee to take part in the proceedings of this day, a moment's reflection convinced me that it was simply in consequence of the official post which I hold in connection with a great missionary society, which led them to think of my name. The same consideration shall guide me to that line of remark in which alone I can presume to address this great meeting. It might be supposed that one, the great object of whose life has been the promotion of the interests of a missionary society—whose whole time and thoughts are occupied in the management of affairs which belong to the sending forth of the living voice to proclaim the gospel of salvation—would estimate less highly the labors of a society which is engaged in what may be called the mechanical circulation of the written page. But it has been very different with me. The more I have entered into the interior of the missionary work—the oftener and the longer I have conversed with those who have come from every corner of the earth—the more I have acquired an intimate knowledge of the working of missions; not only the missions of the society with which I am connected, but of other societies in which it is our privilege to unite together in brotherly conference; the more I have known and studied the state of the world at large, and its great want, the higher has this society risen in my estimation; and the more clearly have I perceived that the work and constitution of this society supply a great need in the missionary enterprise. I no longer look on the British and Foreign Bible Society, as I once mistakenly did, as the handmaid of the great missionary associations throughout the world, but I confess that I now look upon her “as the King's daughter, all glorious within, and with her clothing of wrought gold,” and that we, missionary societies, “are her companions, that bear her company.”

I give the Bible society this precedence on many grounds. My Christian friends, I would not presume to offer to this great and impressive assembly thoughts which had not been the subject of long and deep reflection. I am not accustomed to address public meetings such as this. I am an