

been brought for its anniversary upon their soil. Never did so noble a visitor cross the mountains. Never did so grand an opportunity and occasion occur to the people in these vast basins of the Mississippi. I congratulate you, brethren, that you have lived to see it. The American Bible Society coming in all the regality of a Divine message, in all the glory of the Divine presence, in all the fulness of the Divine love; not asking you, "May we hold our anniversary here?" but telling you that the King of the whole earth has come, and requiring you to do Him homage. I rejoice that you have the privilege. If you could go back and remember the time when there were no Bible Societies, you would remember a world of difficulties in this land.

I have a sweet remembrance of something connected with it. More than sixty-five years ago, when I was a little boy at the Academy of Andover, I had no Bible—no Bible was to be had. It was impossible to get a Bible in any common methods of communication. I saved all the pocket money that was given me by my beloved parent, until it came up to a dollar and twenty-five cents; that bought me the first little Bible I ever owned, and I clasped it to my bosom as if it had descended from heaven upon my shoulders. I learned to say, "*Biblos*, my Bible." God gave it to me. You never know what that Bible is until you take it as your own, coming direct from God to you.

I was once called to visit a dying lady, in the city of Philadelphia, of an English family. She and her husband were in a boarding-house there. I spent much time with her, knelt often in prayer with her, and with great delight. Her husband was an Atheist, an English Atheist—a cold-hearted, bloated English Atheist. There is no such being beside him on the face of the globe. That was her husband. On the day in which that sweet Christian woman died, she put her hand under the pillow and pulled out a little, beautiful, well-worn English Bible. She brought out that sweet little Bible, worn and thumbed, and moistened with tears. She called her husband and he came, and she said, "Do you know this little book?" and he answered, "It is your Bible;" and she replied, "It is my Bible; it has been everything to me; it has converted, strengthened, cheered, and saved me. Now I am going to Him that gave it to me, and I shall want it no more; open your hands"—and she put it in between his hands and pressed his two hands together: "My dear husband, do you know what I am doing?" "Yes, dear, you are giving me your Bible." "No, darling, I am giving you *your* Bible, and God has sent me to give you this sweet book before I die; put it in your hands; now put it in your bosom—will you keep it there? will you read it for me?" "I will my dear."

I placed this dear lady, dead, in the tomb behind my church. Perhaps three weeks afterwards, that big, bloated Englishman came to my study, weeping profusely. "Oh, my friend," said he, "my friend! I have found what she meant—I have found what she meant—it is *my* Bible; oh! it is my Bible; every word in it was written for me. I read it over day by day; I read it over night by night; I bless God it is my Bible. Will you take me into your church, where she was?" "With all my heart"—and that proud, worldly, hostile man, hating this blessed Bible, came with no arguments, with no objections, with no difficulties suggested, with no questions to unravel, but binding it upon his heart of memory and love. It was God's message of direct salvation to his soul, as if there were not another Bible in Philadelphia, and an angel from heaven had brought him this.

There we stand. The Bible is God's Bible, given to man, proclaiming full salvation. The Bible is man's Bible, the moment that he thus receives it from God. The giving of that Bible is the duty of the Church of God, and the Church of God has, comparatively, no other duty until that duty is done. Go into all the world, preach the Gospel, carry it with you, give it to everybody on the face of the whole world, until the harvest of the earth shall be reaped, and the Lord God Omnipotent shall reign King of kings and Lord of lords.—*American Bible Society Record.*