

one division of it was able to pacify the country without taking a single life. The native chief was invited to the tent of the commander, and here he was shown a New Testament. The commander said, "This is the Book from which we Christians learn what is right, and according to this Book we never put to death or punish the upright, as we often did while still heathen; but the guilty must be punished, for this is the Word of God and the law of the Queen." The following day there was another interview, terms of peace were agreed upon, a beautiful copy of the New Testament was given to the native chief, and the commander said to him, "If ever we make war upon you without just cause, or kill or punish the guiltless, show us this Book; then, indeed we shall be self condemned." In another native account of this same expedition, it is said that these heathen chiefs came and asked some of the Christian officers, "How is it that you people from Imerina do not now come to destroy our country and enslave us, as you did in former times?" And they were answered, "Because Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Redeemer of men, has given the Gospel to teach mankind to show mercy." And so, when that army was about to return, a most favourable impression was left upon those heathen people, and they said, "We see that this religion you Hovas profess is not a weakening of your strength, so that you cannot fight, but it is a showing of mercy." I think, my Lord and Christian friends, that that was a valuable testimony to the reality of the change which the study of the Word of God had worked upon many of these Hova people. The heathen saw that it was more than mere words, talk or preaching, and that the Gospel had produced a very real and unmistakable change in their conduct and their lives. That *military* expedition really became a *missionary* expedition to some of the most unenlightened tribes, and opened up the way for the advance of the Gospel. Now, dear friends, I fear I have already occupied too much of your time, but let me say in conclusion, that the heathen world is longing, often unconsciously, it is true, but yet longing, for the light and the knowledge which the Book only can give. Could you have stood to preach, as I have done, before some of those heathen crowds in the south-east of the island, and looked upon two or three hundred people who, up to that day had never heard the blessed name of our Saviour, I think you would have felt that you should use far greater efforts than ever you have made to extend the knowledge of the salvation revealed in the Sacred Word. I remember on one afternoon, as we pitched our tent somewhat early at a village called Taranta, we soon had a number of people in to hear what we had come for. We sat down and talked to them of "the old, old story," old to us, but perfectly new to them. How intently they listened as we told them of God the Father, of Christ the Saviour, of the soul and its salvation, and of the heaven beyond. "Tell us again," said they; "these things are new to us, but they make us glad to hear: tell us again." Christian friends, "Tell it again" to them; "tell it again" to the heathen all through the world.

The Rev. W. F. MACDONALD moved a vote of thanks to the officers of the Society and its Franches, &c., in an excellent speech, for which we regret we have not room.

The Rev. DR. JOHNSTON, of Belfast, seconded the resolution. In doing so, he said: I think all who are present will agree with me that we have as a president a nobleman who embodies in his life and character all the great principles contained in that Book which it is our business to translate and circulate. I speak the feelings I have no doubt of every heart when I say that it is a great pleasure to see your lordship occupying the chair to-day, and we trust that for many years yet to come your lordship may be spared to occupy that chair, and to preside over the noble operations of the Society in the future as you have done in the past. In so far as the vice-presidents and the treasurer are concerned, I am sure whether we are members of the English Church or other Churches, we enjoy the privilege of being vice-presidents and of being connected with the operations of the Society, in proportion as we