

APPENDIX.

London, Earl Street,
Blackfriars May 17th. 1823.

Rev. and Dear Sir,

From your last Report we collect with pleasure the information, that while some of your Auxiliaries suffer themselves to be weighed down by the circumstances of the times, others have made a noble effort, and succeeded in rising above them. We are persuaded that nothing in general is more destructive of every effort of benevolence than a fear (an unbelieving fear should I perhaps call it) to become poor by such benevolence. Israel of old was reproached when they complained of bad times and on that account left off building the temple, and their Prophets told them that they could nevertheless find time to build their own houses, but that the blessing was withheld because their first endeavour was not the glory and the service of their God. It is a melancholy observation, but unfortunately too well founded, that people in times of distress, when the necessity of saving and husbanding their income is forcibly impressed upon them, generally will begin by reducing their charities before they commence retrenching upon their luxuries. This is the case every where more or less; yet, how awful the consideration. Awful, because such practice can only produce greater distress, while the people remain ignorant of the real cause, which generally is *worldly mindedness*.

Within the wide range of our Society's operation it is nothing new to us to hear the same complaints of the times from every quarter of the globe; yet, strange would it seem to any body, were the fact not palpable that from those whose circumstances would lead collectors for our charity to forbear making any appeal, the most willing and the most liberal (comparatively speaking) contributions to the cause of the Bible Society should have frequently been received—

We therefore rejoice to see similar examples exhibited in the sphere of your Biblical exertions, and trust that they will prove a leaven to reinvigorate the whole lump.

We had a most delightful Anniversary meeting on the 7th. inst attended, as usual by a number of distinguished personages, among whom the Rt. Rev. Bishop of Gloucester the Earl of Harrowby, Lords Bexley, Calthorpe, Lorton, Sir G. Rose, (late ambassador to the court of Russia) Wm. Wilberforce, Esq. took an active part in the transactions of the day; as well as three distinguished foreign visitors, His Excellency Counsellor of State Ign. Papoff. Secretary of the Russian Bible Society; the Rav. Profr. Stapfer Deputy from the Protestant Bible Society of Paris, and Dr. Gautier representative of the Geneva Bible Society, whose addresses were extremely interesting and encouraging.

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