

SPEECHES.

The Rev. John Armstrong, in moving the first Resolution, spoke as follows:—

MR. PRESIDENT—The late justly celebrated Mrs. Hannah More once put it into the head of a clergyman, about to attend a Bible meeting, to say that among the greatest enemies of the Bible Society were long speeches. May I venture to hope we shall have no such enemies to that noble Institution on the present platform? As it has fallen to my lot to move the first Resolution, so I promise to set a good example, and not be among the first to trespass upon the advice of the venerable lady referred to.

Mr. President, I give you and this meeting joy, and I would take some share of it to myself, that we have lived to see the British and Foreign Bible Society thoroughly seated in the hearts and affections of British Christians; that its wonderful success and extensive usefulness is exercising an influence for good on statesmen and nobles, who are constrained to acknowledge that it is an honorable instrument, whereby the world is blessed of God. In the 77th year of my age, and 54th of my ministry, having reached, therefore, the general limit of human life, and approaching towards that of which it is said, its "strength is but labor and sorrow," though, thank God, I have not yet experienced the truth of that saying, it is little that I can do in an active way to assist in carrying on the glorious work of the Bible Society, but that little shall not be wanting. There is one object that I most heartily wish I could bring about, or even witness it. I mean the more general co-operation of the clergy of the Church of England in this Province with our heaven-favored Society. Yes, my heart would rejoice to see the Bishop and the clergy on this platform, using their best talents and exercising their best exertions in defence and support of it; and I think that my non-conforming brethren would partake of my joy at the sight, and that they would neither be envious nor jealous, even though we greatly outnumbered them on such occasions as the present. And why should not the Church of England come up bodily to the help, to the support, and to the strengthening of that Society, which would help, and support, and strengthen its own establishment? for I verily believe with the late Lord Harrowby, who said, "that after reading much on both sides, he was confirmed in thinking that the Church of England only added to its credit, dignity, and usefulness, and therefore to its strength, by its union with the British and Foreign Bible Society." Thank God, however, we have a goodly array of the noble, and honorable, and dignified members of that Church as the patrons of our Society. Happily, we do not stand in need of advocates, neither of the Bible Society nor of the Bible itself; and, indeed, at the present day, when infidelity is renewing its pernicious efforts to poison the fountains of Divine Revelation, the Colensos of England denying the verity and inspiration of the Pentateuch, and the Renans of France denying the divinity and supernatural power of Jesus Christ,