

than forty years he had been a supporter of the British and Foreign Bible Society, whose object is to send the Word of the living God to "every creature." And as we stood in the house of mourning by the body of that aged servant of God, and looked upon his face, silent in death, we were deeply impressed when we heard his pastor read, "Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many mansions. If it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you." He believed the promise, and the fruition even then was his.

We, however, by the good providence of God, are permitted to assemble, and we call your attention to one of the most, if not the most prominent phenomenon which characterizes the present century. Your presence to-night gives a palpable proof of the importance which does and must attach to the existence of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

It is impossible to estimate the influence which this Society is now exercising upon the civilization of the world. Independent of the vitalizing force of the moral principles inculcated in the Bible, this Society, according to Max Muller (no mean authority), has, by its numerous translations of the Scriptures, conduced largely to the elevation of the race. The bare fact that a mass of writings such as our common Bible contains has been translated into 250 languages or dialects, stamps this Society as a power in the mental work of the world. And when we further take into consideration that this amount of work is carried on by educated men, we must admit the claim of the British and Foreign Bible Society to a high position among the intellectual forces of the century. But not only have these translations been made into languages whose written characters were already formed, but they have in many instances entailed upon the men engaged in the work the necessity of originating a written language when no method previously existed for communicating knowledge. Such a preparation for any peo-