



Published every Alternate Month,
Under Direction of the Upper Canada Bible Society.

VOL. XII.

TORONTO, APRIL, 1882.

No. 7.

HISTORICAL ADDRESS ON THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE
SOCIETY.

BY THE REV. JOHN M'EWEN, OF INGERSOLL.

The British and Foreign Bible Society is a Providential Institution for the PRESERVATION, MULTIPLYING and CIRCULATING the Word of God without note or comment.

The Bible, as the Word of God, is the object on which our eye is fixed—the preservation of it in the Earth as a trust from God—the multiplying of its copies, that he who runs, may read—the circulation of it to all ends of the earth is the glorious work to be undertaken.

This book was closed in the Island of Patmos about eighteen hundred years ago. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth," is the opening sentence, and forms a golden socket, fretted with His love and power—"The grace of our Lord Jesus be with the Saints," its closing benediction—is as a jewelled clasp enclosing its precious contents. The fortunes of the Book have been varied; and its testing beyond conception severe. Its friends, and its defenders have been numerous, devoted, enthusiastic, self-sacrificing. Its enemies have been multiplied, bitter in their scorn, factious and cruel in their opposition; blind in their rage; but impotent in their purposes. "The Word of the Lord liveth and abideth forever."

The history of this book is as marvellous as the history it contains, its contents have grown by the power of Divine Revelation, working in the hearts of the Saints and stirring the minds of the unfaithful. Its writing extended over sixteen hundred years—it was written in that period by thirty-six inspired men—made up of sixty-six parts—woven together as the warp of Divine communications; with the woof of human history and experience—so human that it touches all classes of people—equally suited to all ages from the little child to the aged sage; so divine that the human spirit is never disappointed—it is like the Word made flesh—it dwells among us, and we behold its glory.