

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING,

HELD IN

THE WESLEYAN CENTENARY CHAPEL, ON WEDNESDAY
EVENING, JANUARY 3, 1855.

His Honor Judge PARKER, President of the Society, in the Chair.

The Meeting was opened by singing the following Hymn:—

And have we heard the joyful sound?
Have we the only Saviour found?
And shall we not to all proclaim
His boundless grace, his mighty name!

Hath God to us His Glory shewn,—
Oh! not for merits of our own!
And shall not love constrain our heart
This blessed knowledge to impart?

O Saviour, who for us hast died!
Be thou our teacher, help and guide;
Inflame our hearts with christian love,
And bless our labors from above.

Send forth Thy light; display Thy power;
Let people all confess, adore;
In ev'ry land Thy Word be sown;
By ev'ry soul Thy Truth be known.

The President then rose, and delivered the following appropriate address:—

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—An aged minister of the Gospel, who not long since was taken to his rest, has left behind him this testimonial of our Parent Society—"No institution since the apostolic era will bear a comparison with the British and Foreign Bible Society, whether we consider the period and circumstances of its origination—the supreme importance of its design—the catholicism of its basis—the principle on which alone it depends for its success—the unbroken harmony of its numerous adherents—the magnitude of its undertakings—the immensity of its achievements—or the bearing of its operations on the great moral questions which agitate the world." These are the words of the late Rev. William Jay, of Bath, who, though not a minister of the Church to which I belong, was, I am happy to say, one whose preaching and whose writings have been blessed to many Christians of different churches—one who was possessed of rare advantages for extending the circle of his religious friendship, and for forming a proper estimate of the Bible Society, as he commenced his ministerial duties before that Society was formed, and continued therein until the year of its Jubilee. Had his life been spared a few months longer, even he would have, I think, had his joy mingled with astonishment, to find of what surpassing interest were the details of the last year's Report of the Society. He would have seen, as we may now see, that the free contributions for the three funds—the Jubilee fund, the Chinese million Testament fund, and that for general purposes—amounted to *one hundred and fifty thousand pounds sterling*, of which, I am happy to say, Canada contributed near two thousand, Nova