

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

Held in the Hall of the Mechanics' Institute, on Thursday Evening,
January 8, 1851.

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



The Meeting was opened by Singing the following four verses
of the 57th Psalm :

BE Thou, O God, exalted high :
And as Thy glory fills the sky,
So let it be on earth display'd,
Till Thou art here, as there, obey'd.

Thy praises, Lord, I will resound
To all the list'ning nations round ;
Thy mercy highest heav'n transeends,
Thy truth beyond the clouds extends.

O God, my heart is fix'd, 'tis bent,
Its thankful tribute to present ;
And with my heart my voice I'll raise
To Thee, my God, in songs of praise.

BE Thou, O God, exalted high :
And, as Thy glory fills the sky,
So let it be on earth display'd,
Till Thou art here, as there, obey'd.

The Rev. Dr. I. W. D. GRAY next read, in a deeply impressive
manner, from a Bible which was printed at the beginning of the
reign of Charles I., the beautiful and encouraging 67th Psalm,
after which—

The President addressed the Meeting, and in remarking, with regret, on the insufficiency of the space to accommodate the yearly increasing number of those who were desirous of attending our Anniversaries, urged on all present—who came as avowed friends to the circulation of the Holy Scriptures—for such only were invited—to consider the duty of giving their substantial aid to the Society—and in order to shew the need for this, he reminded them that we were not merely a Bible Society of New Brunswick, but an auxiliary to the great British and Foreign Bible Society—the Bible Society of the world. After commenting on the vast extent of the Society's operations under each of the distinctive heads—British and Foreign—and the great benefit we derived from the Common English Version of the Bible—adopted and approved by all denominations of Protestants—which had been so carefully and faithfully translated, and so long in use—the numerous other versions rendered necessary by the various languages and dialects of the inhabitants of the widely spread dominions of the British Crown—the new fields opening every year, or the old ones extending in Foreign Countries—the President proceeded nearly as follows :

“ The one great object of the Bible Society is, that every member of the human family should have the whole and the pure word of God in his own tongue in which he was born. It is very gratifying to me to inform you that you will have before you this evening, two Reverend gentlemen who have laboured in far distant and widely separated countries,—and who will tell you what their own eyes have seen, their own ears heard, and hands handled in the work of this Society—and you will hear from them and from others, not merely of the effect of the Bible in Heathen countries—but the contrast will be drawn between the past and present state of those countries in which the Bible is freely received, and those (whether Heathen or within the bounds of Christendom,) where it is excluded or only partially admitted. The great advantage which has attended the plan of Bible Colportage in this Province, as well as all other countries into which it has been introduced, will also be detailed to you.

“ There is one topic—of late an almost absorbing one in England—which it would be an affectation of delicacy in me to pass unnoticed—indeed, as I consider it has a most material bearing on the Bible Society, it is forced upon our attention. You will perceive I am alluding to the late extraordinary action of one whom we can look upon only as a Foreign Prince or Prelate—though his spiritual authority is acknowledged by many beyond the sphere of his dominion and Sec. As a member of this

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