

feature which is apt to be lost sight of in these large meetings, and that is the great number of earnest workers whom we have in the country, who visit, as in districts I know, every inn and every public-house, to see whether every room and apartment is supplied with a copy of the Bible. In the district which I have the honour to represent, every miner's little cottage and every little place is not only visited by colporteurs, but, what is a much more blessed thing, the work is done by means of a free and unpaid agency. Then there is another very interesting feature, namely, the great amount of silent good which I believe has been done day by day, by the Scriptures being sent out in various languages, not only from the great port of London, but also every port on the north, east and west of England, to other countries. Bibles put into the hands of foreign seamen have often been as bread cast upon the waters, which has borne fruit, and, God be praised for it, not after very many days. Crews of vessels that have come back to the same ports have sought out the colporteurs or missionaries who supplied copies of the blessed Book; and these copies they take with them to places where the Scriptures are very little, if ever, read or seen. All this shows that, in addition to the more evident work recorded in the Report, there is a vast amount of silent work which demands your kindest attention, and is well worthy of your pecuniary support. Now, I am afraid that I am trespassing too much upon the time and patience of the meeting, but I should like to bring this matter a little closer home to each one of us. This is one Book, and one alone, which, in the midst of the storm or the shipwreck—and so it has lately proved—will satisfy the soul, and it is that Book which contains the promises of the Gospel and the way of salvation—that Book which emphatically declares that a time shall come when there shall be no more sea. We, who are engaged in a humble way in discharging the duties of public life in this country, often feel harassed by its cares and anxieties; but when we open this Book we learn that “the just shall live by faith,” and that “faith without works is dead.” There is another declaration which must ever come up before us, that “the Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.” There are amongst us the middle classes, or trading classes, who return home weary at night, often finding it difficult, in such times as these that we live in, “to provide things honest in the sight of all men.” There is a declaration by one who wrote much, and who well knew what were the cares and troubles of life: “I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.” And so we might go on through the Book, which conveys its blessed promises so plainly and palpably to our hearts. If, then, these promises, or a part of them, come home to us with their comfort and consolation, we are each bound, as we value the blessing we derive ourselves, to do all we can to disseminate this Book among the nations of the earth. Let us, therefore, continue to support the agencies of this Society, for there will be no end to its labours until the time comes when the Church on earth shall become the Church triumphant in heaven.

The Rev. Dr. James, in seconding the resolution, said: My Lord Shaftesbury, ladies and gentlemen,—It is many years since I had the privilege of attending a Bible Society meeting in this hall; and I must confess to some unusual perturbation in addressing any but a Methodist meeting. Yet I have felt myself in a most genial atmosphere this morning, and I have been carried back through many years of happy association with honoured men, as I have recognised on this platform, one after another, Bible Society workers in Hull, Sheffield, Cheltenham, and other places. May I be permitted to say with what profound and reverent love I have looked upon the form, and listened to the voice of the venerable Dean of Carlisle? Dr. Close was Vicar of Cheltenham in the first year of my ministerial life. I remember two or three instances of his kindness and condescension to me, for I commenced my ministry when I was almost a boy. I well remember being greatly stirred and benefited many times by the discourses which it was my