

believe it will be realized, therefore as I look on my country I can say, "I will trust."

The Lord Bishop of ROCHESTER said,—My Lords, my Rev. Brethren, my Christian Friends, I am greatly honoured by being permitted to move the following Resolution :—

"That the Society, as represented in this meeting, renders humble thanks to Almighty God for the opportunity given in so many lands for holding forth the Word of Life; and, that, while rejoicing in the success granted to all other Societies that have this object in view, it gratefully acknowledges the blessing that has rested upon its own labours during another year."

My lord, there are two things that this age of ours, in which I for one, am so thankful to be permitted to live, passionately desires, and I think it is the glory of the age that that is the case: they are Truth and Unity. We know perfectly well that they cannot always be had together, and we also are quite of one mind as to which has to come first when they cannot both be had at once. But I suppose we here to-day quite agree in this, that when we can have them together our hearts sincerely rejoice in it; and we are met together here to-day, not because we pretend to have a perfect agreement of opinion as to the meaning of every passage in the Bible, but because we believe that it is our duty to circulate the Word of God among all those for whom the blessed Saviour died. We are here, I say, thankful that we have this opportunity of battling together as one great army of the soldiers of Jesus Christ, face to face, and shoulder to shoulder, to do what we can for Him. It is the surest and safest way to fight our battle for Him. We can each of us say in our deepest heart, "Thy Word is tried to the uttermost, but Thy servant loveth it." I have often thought that there is no easier or better test of our actions in this life than the endeavour to anticipate what our feelings about them will be when in the spacious tracts of our Father's house we have left our present life behind us, and looking back to what we have done and said, sincerely ask ourselves if we would do or say the things again. I don't think we need much fear that when we are permitted, if God in His goodness permit us, through the mercy of His dear Son, to give each other a happy and holy greeting presently in the sinless and fearless land, we shall have much regret that we met here to shake hands over the Bible to-day. There is one sentence in the Report (which to me at least was not one minute too long) which struck me as a very forcible one. It spoke of the Bible as the book of the people, and it seems to me that one great question which this meeting suggests to us as practical men is, "Ought it to be the book of the people?" and "Shall it be?" I was very much touched by the allusion that was made by Mr. Reed in this report to the memory of his excellent father. I had the honour of enjoying Sir Charles Reed's friendship—at least I hope I may say so—we were together on the first School Board for London. We had many opportunities—he in a prominent way, and I in a humble way—of doing whatever we could to take care that the Word of God was read in the Board Schools of London. I believe nothing was so near to his heart as that, and he died, having, I believe not only for our time, but for many years to come, clinched the victory of the Bible. I do not suppose that there is one person in this vast and important assemblage who would not feel that a very great injustice was being done to him if he was accused by anyone outside of having any sour or fixed distrust of secular knowledge. We are here just because we trust the God of the Bible, and just because we feel that reason is one of the greatest gifts of God to His people, we desire to open out the entire dominion of knowledge to all the creatures that God has made in His own image; and we do not wish selfishly to keep the key of knowledge in our own hands, and shut it up from our poorer brethren. We may indeed be foolish in being Christians, but we are not quite so silly as that. What we are here for to-day is to correlate and complete secular knowledge by the revelation of the Word of God. We want to take care that our fellow-Christians who have fewer chances than ourselves shall have a fair start in life, with a chance in