

edition shall be distributed as widely as possible, in the hope that by its effects it will prove a blessed commemoration of this festival (Cheers.) I especially rejoice to see the Duke of Argyll on this platform; and I will tell you why. Two of his ancestors laid down their lives on the scaffold for religious liberty; and one of them, when his spirit was about to wing its way to glory, uttered the memorable declaration, "I die with a heart hatred of Popery." (Cheers.) When we see the sky, my friends, presenting fearful omens, and the lurid mass seems about to break, let us arise and gather round this Society; and, in doing so, we may rest assured that the tempest when it has burst will leave us in safety, while civil and ecclesiastical despotism shall have been driven away like chaff before the wind (Cheers.)

The Earl of CARISBURY seconded the resolution. I think, ladies and gentlemen, it is well for us to be thus assembled. Our common Christianity, as far, at least, as it is likely to be represented here, does not exact or encourage many outward exhibitions of pomp and pageantry. But if it does not, like that older faith of which it is the complement and consummation, lead forth its solemn flames by the brook of Siloam, or ascend, with the sound of the trumpets and the graduated song, the long flight of steps which conduct to the portals of the temple; if in its ordinary working its ministrations are principally to be found in acts of self-denying labour, or in the unostentatious love with which it shines in the hearts of its worshippers, yet there are seasons when we may point to such assemblies as the present, and feel that we, too, have our festivals, our galas, our strains of triumph—that there is a Christian as well as a Jewish jubilee, and that the achievements of which we have this day heard the recital, and of which we are not to perpetuate the memory, are not unworthy of lending another chord to the harp of David or the lyre of Isaiah. (Applause.) It cannot be necessary for me to offer any caution to an auditor like the present not to indulge in a spirit of undue exultation. They will all feel primarily that the whole praise, and honour and victory are due to the Omnipotent. (Hear.) They will feel next that so far as He has been pleased to own and bless human agency, these principally belong to the humble and laborious agents and servants of the Society, whether at home or abroad—to the travelling agent plying his unwearied round of visits, often among the listless and indifferent—to the secretary working at his desk—to the translator amid overwhelming intricacies of idiom and of dialect—to the colporteur journeying under unkind skies, and often amid the unkind menaces of his fellow-men—to the missionary, a name almost always a synonyme for exile, and often for martyr. It is to their persevering, often unobserved, and seemingly unrewarded labour that we are principally to trace our 8000 societies, and our 160 languages, and our 40,000,000 of copies. (Cheers.) This is indeed a magnificent result. Since the Society first issued from its single room, even as the original publishers and messengers of the gospel issued from their upper chamber to communicate glad tidings to the world, how continuous and how triumphant has been the progress of its operations, how immense its field of labour, how unflagging the wing of that angel which flies in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to them that dwell

upon the earth. [Applause.] It is not only the polished and cultured realms of Europe,—that France from which we derived so much learning, eloquence, and, piety in her exiled ministers and subjects at the time of the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, and to which we are now in some degree repaying that debt—[hear, hear]—that Germany which has so much of kinship with us, both of blood and character, the country of the Reformation and of Luther—[cheers]—Italy, pale and fair, sister of sorrow, with whom it would seem to be hardly in keeping with the holy calm on this occasion if we gave full vent to our sympathy. But, besides these, all the antique and gorgeous East, with its worn-out civilizations and obliterated dynasties,—the caste-ridden India, the mysterious China, the swarthy Arabia, and the coal-black Africa,—together with that new world of America, which is entering into such noble competition with the old in the Bible and missionary causes,—all, all of these—shores scarcely open to commerce, and islands now to geography—are now welcoming the footprints of the messengers of peace, and drinking in the accents of Almighty love. [Cheers.] Yet, ladies and gentlemen, thrilling and glowing as the statement is of what has been done, and what is still doing, in this noblest of all undertakings, the sobriety and the force of the obligation which devolves upon us all, exact that it should not be concealed, how enormously much, remains still to be done.—To what countless numbers, over what unmeasured spaces, has the message of the Redeemer not yet come!—and till it comes and wings its way, what dark abodes of superstition and cruelty must still remain,—what obscene rites must still insult the face of heaven,—how many altars of false gods reek with human victims! (Hear, hear.) Well, then, ladies and gentlemen, if such things exist, let me call upon you to say whether they shall still continue. In the midst even of this our legitimate and becoming jubilee, these recollections, these realities, should rise before us, and arouse us to increased zeal, hope, and prayer, and their only trustworthy fruits, personal liberality and personal exertion. Let this be the real trumpet-call of the Christian jubilee. (Cheers.) How long, I say, is the state of things, to which I have thus briefly alluded, to continue? It was not dealing—I hope I may say it without irreverence—with the work of him to whom "a day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as a day," I might be tempted to say, let not the full centenary of the Bible Society be completed before the whole world has become the dominion of the gospel, and pagan darkness and infidel insanity have been swept away from its ransomed populations. (Cheers.) But, though I feel most emphatically that with respect to the future it is not for man to feel assured, far less to dogmatize, and that the whole field of unfulfilled prophecy is by no means yet thrown open to familiar or presumptuous access, yet, judging by the tenour of past predictions, and comparing them with their ascertained fulfilment, and comparing them, again, with the tenour of the predictions still remaining unfulfilled, I cannot resist the impression that the world around us may even now be big with the throes of crisis and conflict,—may I not add, of deliverance?—(Applause.) Yes, while the waters of the mystic Euphrates seem to be daily drying up, and we can scarcely read a leading article of our intelligent, though on this point, uncon-

scious press, which may not serve as an illustration and a text-book to the commentators on Bible controversy; while upon her oppressed seat of western empire Rome seems to be redoubling, though with somewhat of spasmodic energy—(cheers)—the efforts of her prime, and refurbishing the weapons of her ancient armour; while infidelity warily over before exhibited such bold malignity, or superstition such shameless effrontery, or priestcraft such subtle ambition; while through all of these, above all of these, "conquering and to conquer" all of these prels the gospel summons, even this our jubilee strain of triumph, gathering strength from resistance, and exaltation from depression,—mingling the prayers of earth with the hallelujahs of heaven—it is impossible not to think but that prophecy may touch upon its fulfilment, and the mysteries of time be heaving to their completion; and even the intense gloom which we now witness and shudder at, be fringed with the uprising rays of the coming glory. (Loud applause.) What, then, my kind hearers, to whom I have ventured to touch, all unworthy as I may be, on such majestic themes—what is the warning and admonition which they convey to all of us? Is it not that, next to the great work of personal holiness, and of course in subordination to the immediate duties that belong to the position in which Providence has placed us, we ought to labour intently, as our opportunities and spheres of action permit, upon the sublime work of the world's emancipation; which we must all of us think will be the probable prelude and preparation for the world's final happiness; and, at least, it seems to me that we who are now here assembled shall be justified in embracing fully this conviction, that whatever else may pass away and perish in a passing and perishing world,—its pleasures, its pomp, its empire, its heroism, its genius, its winning coquetry, and its dazzling grandeur,—at least, the work of the Bible Society will not be among the things which are doomed to the final dissolution of the passing and the perishing, but that it will leave its traces, ay, in the succeeding eternity. (Applause.)

JOSIAH FOSTER, Esq., supported the resolution.

The Rev. Canon STOWELL moved the following resolution:—"That the Jubilee Fund be now regarded as open, and that all ranks and ages be invited and encouraged to contribute thereto with a liberality commensurate with the importance and magnitude of the objects contemplated." [Speech in our next.]

The Rev. Mr. BROWN, one of the secretaries, said, before the resolution was seconded, he had some subscriptions to announce. It had been his intention to ask for £7000, but, unfortunately for his speech, that amount had already been exceeded—[great cheers]—and he must now ask, therefore, for £10,000. He then read the following list:—F. Farmer, Esq., £1000; James Foster, Esq., £1000, Mr. Mills, M. P., £500; Remington Mills, Esq., £500; the Marquis of Cholmondeley, £100; R. C. Bevan, Esq., £105; J. Morley, Esq., £100; W. Evans, Esq., M. P., £100, S. Gurney, Esq., £100; W. A. Hankey, Esq., £50; the Rev. J. C. Glyn, £50; G. Maryn, Esq., £50, &c., &c.

The Rev. W. ARTHUR seconded the resolution.

The Rev. Mr. CHARLES, of Wales, supported the resolution; being announced to the meeting as a grandson of the man whose first application for Bibles led, as had been