

consisted of hymn-books and Testaments. Thus was the Queen of Madagascar engaged in the great work of Bible circulation. May we not, my lord, regard these latter changes that have come over the government of Madagascar as an earnest of brighter and happier days for the people? Let us, then, pray earnestly that, as in the dark days of persecution, so in these brighter days of liberty, the faith of the Malagasy people may be based upon the pure Word of God.

The Rev. PREBENDARY CADMAN seconded the resolution.

The Rev. MARMADUKE C. OSBORNE said—

“That the thanks of this meeting be given to the president and vice-presidents for their continued patronage; also to Joseph Hoare, Esq., the treasurer, who is requested to continue his services. That grateful thanks be also presented to the officers, committees, and collectors of the various auxiliaries, branches, and associations throughout this country and the colonies; to whose untiring zeal and energy the Society is again indebted for so large an amount of free contributions during the past year, and to whom they would earnestly appeal for a continuance of their efficient and valuable services; and that the following gentlemen be the committee for the ensuing year, with power to fill up vacancies.” (Names read.)

I deem it a great honour, my lord, to be permitted to stand on this platform to-day, and to advocate in a very few sentences the British and Foreign Bible Society. I am not an archbishop; I am not a missionary from Madagascar, nor am I an African bishop either; I am a plain, simple, straightforward Methodist preacher. I do not presume to represent the community just now to which I belong, but it may be permitted me to say that so far as I understand the common sentiment and feeling of that community its confidence in this Society to-day is unabated, and its attachment is as strong as ever. It is my honour to be a member of the Committee of the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society, and I know something of the extent to which that Society is indebted to this; and it was only on Monday last, when the anniversary meeting of that Society was held in this room, that grateful mention was made of an instance of assistance by this Society during the course of the past year in providing a supply of copies of the Scriptures in Arabic for the use of our newly-revived and resuscitated mission on the Cambia. The object of this Society is very simple, and to me, indeed, the simplicity is the charm of it. Its simplicity is so delightful and sublime—I was going to say divine—that it at once commends itself to my understanding and judgment, and fascinates my fancy. It seems to be in very delightful analogy to the object of the Christian minister and missionary. We ministers go forth to preach a Man, and you associate to circulate a Book. The religion that we profess in common is not orthodoxy; it is not a creed; it is not a set of opinions; it is not mere dogma; it is not a ritual; it is not an organization; but it consists in a loving trust in and an allegiance to a living, loving, and personal Christ; and the great purpose which our ministers at home and missionaries abroad go forth to accomplish is, to tell the story concerning the life, and death, and resurrection of this Man—this God-Man, this Divine Human Saviour. That is the theme, I need not tell you, as we were reminded, indeed, this morning, of the entire Book which you seek to circulate.

The suitability of the teaching of the Bible to the wants of the world has been tried amongst all people, and in all places, upon men of every caste, every colour, every clime; amid the snows of Labrador, and amid the sunny islands of the Southern Seas; it has passed to the great Australasian land; it has found its way and flourished on the banks of the majestic rivers and amid the pine forests of the great American continent; it has proved its suitability and been successful amid the teeming cities of China, on the plains of India, in the wilds of Africa, upon all sorts and conditions of men the wide world over. It has been tried by the Queen in the palace of royalty, and by the widow in the cabin of poverty; by the rich man in purple and fine linen