



AND Conception Bay Journal.

HEARTS RESOLVED AND HANDS PREPARED, THE BLESSINGS THEY ENJOY TO GUARD.—SMOLLER.

VOL. VI.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 1840.

No. 313

Published for the Proprietor, JOHN THOMAS BURTON, at his Office, opposite the Market Place.

(From the St. John, N. B., Observer, June 9.)

Last Thursday evening an extraordinary meeting of the New-Branswick Auxiliary Bible Society took place. The object was to meet the Bible Society Agent, the Rev. James Thomson. We were much gratified in witnessing so large and respectable an audience, met for such a particular purpose, as it indicated not only an interest in the work of Bible circulation, but also showed the high degree of respect which is due to an accredited Agent of the British and Foreign Bible Society. The business of the evening was introduced by singing the 100th Psalm. His Honor, Judge PARKER, the President of the Auxiliary, then, in a short but very appropriate and earnest address, introduced the Rev. Visitor to the audience.

The following, so near as we can give it, is a kind of outline of Mr. Thomson's address. He congratulated the assembly present on their being gathered together on the subject of *The Bible*, and drew the attention to this as a high and great object, calculated to give glory to God, and to produce benefit to all present, in all around us, and to all the world. Many, he remarked, were the privileges of ancient Israel, but the chief of these was, that they possessed the oracles of God. He next desired all present to inquire of themselves, what profit they had gained by the possession of the Bible, remarking that we are all but poor Christians, compared to what we ought to be, and that because of our studying the Bible so little, and with so little care and prayer. He then drew the attention of the audience to the lack of the principles and the practices which the Bible inculcates in all classes. This he attributed to the want of possession of and attention to the sacred Book. Look now, he said, to the wide world, and see the millions and millions of our fellow creatures, even the great bulk of mankind, in total want of the Scriptures, and in gross darkness, moral, and religious. Such meetings as this, he remarked, will greatly tend, as a means in the hand of God, to cure all these evils, for by our meeting here, we ourselves will be led to read, study and obey the Bible more, and such meetings are instruments also in the hands of God towards supplying the scriptures to all around, and to all the world.

He proceeded to say, that God, after great care and through many ages brought the Bible to a close, and gave it to his Church, commanding that it should be made known to every creature throughout the wide and extended world. But this commandment, he stated, was neglected in a great degree by the Church, the consequence of which was that the world was not enlightened, and as a reaction or chastisement for this neglect the Church itself soon darkened, and the light continued to diminish until the well known historical period came on, styled *the dark ages*, which lasted about one thousand years. But blessed be God, he said, who in mercy to his Church and to the world caused the light to break through the darkness of the period of the Reformation. Then were the scriptures brought to the light, rendered into the common tongue spoken by various nations, and all were directed to read the scriptures for themselves, in order that they might know what the will of God was that they might obey it. A second time, he observed, God had poured out his spirit, and still more remarkably, at the Bible Society, was between 20 and 40 years ago. Then the British and Foreign Bible Society arose, whose sole and grand object was to publish the word of God alone in its purity, and without the notes and comments of men. A Society formed for such an object must needs be, he remarked, of God. But besides the natural

proof of the work, God had an especial striking testimony, besides others, showing after the clearest manner that the work was according to his will and for his glory. The one consisted in the amazing number of copies of the scriptures which the Society had been enabled to issue forth to the world during the 28 years of its existence; and the other was in the wonderful number of new versions of the Bible which the Society had procured through the many and singular providences that raised up and brought to them men qualified for the nice and difficult work of translating the Holy Scriptures. Mr. Thomson then went on to state what was the simple plan of the Society, consisting of the Central-Parent Institution in London, and its Auxiliaries, Branches, and Associations extended over the British Isles and Colonies, and in several foreign Nations. The two items of a Bible Society's operations he noticed in regard to the portion of territory or population embraced by it was, first to ascertain by actual visitation the want of the Scriptures in every house and family all over the sphere of the Society, and to supply these wants; and secondly, to use means for leading every individual in possession of the Bible to contribute something more or less year by year for the purpose of sending the word of God to all mankind.

Having made these statements respecting the great value of the Bible, and in respect to the work of distributing it over the world, Mr. Thomson gave some account of his travels in different parts of the world, and his labors in promoting education and the diffusion of the Scriptures. From want of space and proper recollection we are unable to follow Mr. Thomson in the various instances mentioned by him where he succeeded in these two objects, beyond what could have been expected, considering the circumstances of the countries and the people noticed by him. He went first, as we can remember, to Buenos Ayres in South America, and then to Chili and Peru on the same continent. In each of these three countries, he had opportunities of distributing the Scriptures to a considerable extent in the Spanish language, among their inhabitants, all of whom are of the Roman Catholic religion. In the same countries also, in succession, he was employed by their respective governments to establish schools, into which he got introduced lessons selected from the holy scriptures. He stated that he was treated with great liberality and kindness by the Roman Catholic Governments and Priests and people of these new States. Several interesting particulars were mentioned as to an extensive circulation of the Scriptures, and the ready reception of them by the people in general, and to which they were encouraged by the Priests. We understood him also to say that a portion of the Scriptures was translated into the ancient language of Peru, which is still very extensively spoken in that country. Mr. Thomson went on to state, that being obliged to leave Peru through the wars that prevailed in it to so great an extent as to stand materially in the way of all the objects he was engaged in, he undertook an extensive journey from that country through Guayaquil, across both the ridges of the Andes, through Quito, and Bogota, to Carthagen, and mentioned that he succeeded in forming a Bible Society in Bogota, the capital of Colombia, under the sanction of the Priests and the Government. We were next led to Mexico, where Mr. Thomson succeeded in circulating the Scriptures to a very considerable extent, and not by gift but by sale at full price. In one of the great mining districts of that country we understood him to say that in return for copies of the Scriptures disposed of by him in the course of one week, he received in dollars as much as 70 pounds weight of silver that had been dug out of these mines.

Our attention was next drawn to the West Indies in which parts Mr. Thomson had been very successful in his general visitation of all the Islands, both British and Foreign. He stated some very pleasing circumstances in regard to the Negroes of Bonaire, how that they had in a wonderful degree received the Gospel when visited by the Missionaries, and how profitably and extensively they had formed themselves into Bible Societies for procuring the Scriptures for themselves, and for sending them to others all over the world. All these States, he stated, were now made free, and the day of their emancipation, the first day of their liberty and new life, he pleasingly described as devoted entirely unto God as a day of thanksgiving, gratitude and praise for the great blessing obtained.

The Bible labors of Mr. Thomson in the two Continents were next mentioned, and we were gratified to learn of the zealous efforts that are being made in these parts for promoting a general diffusion of the scriptures among both the English and the French Colonies. The Indians too were described as taking a part in Bible Society operations, in emulation as it were of the Negroes, and in grand combination with the many of all classes in many countries, who are happily thus engaged in preparing the way of the Lord.

At the close, Mr. Thomson earnestly exhorted and encouraged all present to go on with their labors in the Bible cause, and to procure as early as possible a full possession of the Scriptures in all the Provinces, by their being found in every house and family: nor to stop with this, but to procure in addition if possible, a contribution annually lesser or greater from every individual in possession of the Scriptures in order that the same blessed Book might be sent to all nations, and come into the hands of all mankind throughout the whole world.

Delicate Compliment. A young lady being addressed by a gentleman much older than herself, objected to him, the only objection she had to the union with him was the probability of his dying before her, making her feel the sorrows of widowhood: to which he made the following ingenious reply:—Blessed is the man that hath a virtuous wife, for the number of his days shall be doubled.—Ecc. xxx. 1.

Mr. Love, the Polyphenist, is drawing large audiences of ladies and gentlemen at Concert Hall, to witness his drolleries and comic-litities. His name alone might insure a full attendance, without any peculiar attraction in his exhibition, but when both combine to fill the house, we may well say that "Love's labor is not lost."

An editor in Pennsylvania lately announced to his subscribers that he was going to enlarge his sheet. The week after he got married.

A person proposes an apparatus, the use of which entirely does away with the necessity of eating. By an ingenious transir of vanity to a different part of the body, he causes the stomach instead of the brain to be inflated, and a man can now fancy his stomach is well filled

and where he used to believe the same of his head.

Novel mode of conveying a steam Engine. It is but a short period that the steam engine has been used to convey post letters on land; and now, for the first time, a post letter is made the means of carrying a steam engine. Messrs. Newton & Berry, of the Post Office, Chancery Lane, London, received per post, from Messrs. Chaburn Brothers, Sheffield, a perfect working engine, constructed on the oscillating cylinder, with its fly wheel, framing, boiler, and fire place complete. The whole was enclosed in a case wrapped in paper, secured with string, and accompanied with a description of its construction and mode of working. The weight being under four cwt., was charged as eight letters—which sum being prepaid at Sheffield cost 15d. postage, and came safe to hand with its fellow penny travellers. *Manchester Guardian.*

THE UNSEEN BABE.

God's blessing on the Baby Boy
Its Father's dear carress,—
How much of sadness and alloy
Are silent with every thrill of joy
That agitate my breast.

While o'er earth's fairest scenes I roam,
And feast my raptur'd eyes—
As thoughts of thee, unbidden, come,
To win me to my quiet home,
In which the New Born lies.

What would I give, at this still hour,
For but a glance at thee?
Hast thou a spell of magic power,
Thou delicate and fragile flower,
That sleeps beyond the sea?

That thus my waking thoughts you share,
And mingle in my dreams?
For, like a spirit of the air,
O'er all that's rich, or grand, or rare,
Some fancied feature beams.

I stood on Snowden's topmost height,
And far beneath me lay
A thousand hills, in all their might,
Tinged with the rosy sunset's light,
A fair and proud array—

But by the cradle then to kneel,
And gaze upon thy face,
Thy little hand in mine to feel,
To make a father's first appeal,
Thy answering smile to trace;

Could I have turn'd such bliss to know,
To spend an hour with thee,
The splendid scenes that lay below—
Loch, vale, and stream, and sunset's glow,
Had wanted charms for me.

O'er sweet Killarney's placid breast
My Bark this moment rove,
And never did my spirit rest
On scene by Heaven more richly blest
With all the Traveller loves.

But there's a chamber, far away,
A Mother's glance of pride—
Familiar forms, that, wondering, pray
That they with "Brother" might
play,
That haunt me as a guide.