

night. Your long life has been devoted to the cause of benevolence and philanthropy, and you have been honoured by the nation in every way ; but I venture to say that the highest honour that has ever been conferred upon you—one that is lasting, and will be permanent—is the honour of being President of the British and Foreign Bible Society. My Lord, when we consider the great power of Germany and its literature, and the influence which that nation must have for good or for evil, it is a great blessing to know that the Word of God is making progress in that country. If we look to our own country, we must be struck with its amazing progress. I was called upon a few days ago to grant the use of the Egyptian Hall for an object which had my cordial and heartiest sympathy—the erection of a monument to the man who first translated the Scriptures into the English language. We owe him, indeed, a great debt of gratitude. My Lord, distinguished as this country has been in literature, in science, in art, and in colonisation, one of the greatest honours that God has conferred upon it, one of its greatest blessings, has been the British and Foreign Bible Society, that has sent the Word of God into all the nations of the earth.

Mr. JOSEPH HOARE seconded the resolution.

The EARL of SHAFESBURY : Ladies and Gentlemen, you will hardly believe an old stager like myself when I say that I am positively taken by surprise ; for I certainly did not expect a vote of thanks to be passed to me for the small service I have rendered on the present occasion. You must recollect, in the first place, that I am President of this Society, and I am bound to be grateful for the very high honour that has been conferred upon me ; and, moreover, I have in my heart the greatest possible desire to advance the interests of this great Institution. Going over the records of the Bible Society from its earliest period to the present day, I think everybody must come to this conclusion, that the providence of God has watched over it in a manner so signal, that it must be manifest even to the most sceptical ; for during all the years we have been in existence as a Society, during all the difficulties and complications to which we have been exposed, with all the agents we have had to employ, with all the various intricacies of the subject, financial, moral, political, religious, we have, by God's providence, committed no great and irretrievable mistake. On the contrary, we have been so blessed, that the agents we have sent forth from this centre to the most distant parts of the earth have discharged their duty like Christian men, and men not only of true piety, but of common sense and sound judgment. I confess I quite concur in what fell from my worthy friend the Lord Mayor, when he said, if those who come after me wish to say anything to my honour, let them say that he was President for thirty years of the British and Foreign Bible Society. It is the greatest institution that ever entered into the mind of man. It is more than a human conception ; it is a Divine inspiration ; and to have been placed at the head of such an institution I confess is to me not only a matter of honour, but of the deepest gratitude.

A hymn was then sung, and the Rev. C. JACKSON brought the proceedings to a close by pronouncing the benediction.

It may be added that the expenses of the *Conversations* were defrayed by the contributions of members of the Committee.

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#### A VOICE FROM SERVIA.

At the recent meeting of the Ventnor and Bonchurch Auxiliary, His Excellency M. Mijatovich, late Minister of Finance for Servia, bore a remarkable testimony to the work of the Society in that country. He said :—

“It would be great presumption for me, a foreigner, and coming from a country which is only just awakening to Christian life, to speak about the