

The Rev. Dr. Wilson, of Bombay, after graceful and complimentary allusion to the mover and seconder of the resolution, spoke in its support :—

“To make my remarks of a practical character, I shall put and answer three questions. And first, what of the translations which are now advancing in India? I have esteemed it a very great privilege to be connected with the translation of the Scriptures into the languages of Western India during the last forty-two years. For twelve years I was secretary of the Translation Committees of the Bombay Bible Society, and I have generally been the president of these committees during the last twenty years. I am happy to say that the work is proceeding in a manner very encouraging to the friends of Bible circulation. The languages with which we have to deal have as their basis the Sanskrit, which is the most copious in its vocables, and the most remarkable and expressive in its grammatical forms, of all languages yet spoken on the earth which, like our own English, are not of a composite character. We find ourselves able to translate the Bible, which is an eastern book, in an intelligible form, into the languages spoken in Western India—which all belong to the Aryan family of languages. I have had the privilege of being associated in this work with representatives of all our mission institutions in this country, on the Continent, and in America, and we have proceeded together from first to last in the most harmonious manner. We might have had differences of opinion as to the style which was to be adopted in rendering the Sacred Scriptures, but we were all influenced by the same motives, we all sought the same end—the setting forth in a faithful and intelligible form to the people of India the Scriptures of Truth, which are able to make men wise unto salvation. I could say much of an interesting character connected with this matter, but I shall now proceed to my second question, What of the circulation of the Bible? We have difficulties in reference to this matter which are not encountered in any other country of the world—in fact, greater difficulties, perhaps, than have been encountered in connection with the great work of the Bible Society in modern times. We all know how Christianity went forth conquering and to conquer amongst the nations of Greece and Rome. It so happens that the Greeks had no sacred books of their own; and with regard to the Romans, we know that they had only a few Sybilline leaves. In India, however, we have to deal with a people who are in possession of a sacred literature of very great antiquity, which they have been accustomed to venerate in its oldest department for at least three thousand years. It is a difficult matter for us to get the people of India to consider the question of abandoning that which they have so long venerated and which has been the directing power in their social and national life. Still, notwithstanding this difficulty, we have got great numbers of natives to accept copies of the Bible, and in many instances to purchase them. It has been my privilege, with others, to put it into the hands of all classes of the population of that great country, amounting combinedly to two hundred millions. I have put the Bible into the hands of the prince sitting upon his throne and of the beggar sitting on the hill of ashes, and I have seen great interest as to the contents of the Bible manifested by those and all the intermediate classes of the people of India. Yet, it has been found by us that the part of the population of India able to read is, comparatively speaking, very limited. I believe that not more than two per cent. of that population are able to read. The Government, I am happy to say, is adopting measures for increasing the number of readers, and in this we rejoice. Our Missionary bodies are continuing their educational efforts, and in this we rejoice. Educational arrangements have been formed, which, on the principle of literary fairness, direct peculiar attention to the Bible amongst those who have participated in the higher education; I refer to those connected with the Indian Universities. In literary fairness we have to give such text-books for examination for degrees as Milton's *Paradise Lost* and *Paradise Regained*, Cowper's