

happy occasion, and that we can say with the poet of our childhood.—

"Whatever brawls disturb the street,
There shall be peace at home."

(Laughter and cheers.) There is peace at home, my Lord. *Circumspice* (Renowned cheers.) It is one of the most precious and cherished recollections of my humble history, that, on the very day I was ordained to the pastoral office according to the rites of Protestant Dissenters, I attended the first meeting in the town of Birmingham for the formation of an association in support of the British and Foreign Bible Society. On the first day I bowed before the altar of truth, and I pledged myself before God and in the presence of many witnesses, to preach the faith as I understood it; on the next day, I bowed with no less reverence, before the altar of charity, and pledged myself before other witnesses to be the messenger of love. On the first day I went within the barrier of one particular section of the Christian Church, on the next I soared above that barrier into the amplitude of the Church of the first-born, breathed its pure air, basked in its sunshine, and enjoyed the brotherhood and liberty of those whose names in common are written in heaven—(Applause.) I will allude for a moment to the first Bible meeting that I was ever privileged to attend. It was at Freemason's Hall, and was composed of men of all creeds and of all political parties. There was about it something of the solemnity of a funeral, combined with the merriment of a wedding; and well might this be the case, for we were met at the burial of bigotry, and by a strange conjunction of circumstances, at the marriage of truth and love. (Cheers.) In one respect, that meeting differed widely from the present, there were no ladies there, except indeed a few heroines, who contrived to steal furtive glances at our proceedings from a gallery; it had not then been discovered that the ladies were the Society's most efficient allies. (Applause.) On the platform were peers, members of the council, dignitaries of the Church. There was Vansittart, afterwards Lord Bexley, the eloquent and able controversialist, who, in one of his earliest pamphlets floated over the land that beautiful sentiment, "If we cannot unite all minds let us reconcile all hearts." There was Grant, who lent us his Indian influence to carry forward our purpose in that part of the world, and whose son, if I mistake not, is present to-day; there was Thornton, a name dear to every one who has philanthropy in his soul; there was Macaulay, the father of the most eloquent English historian; there was Stephen, the father of the learned Professor of History at Oxford, there was the eloquent and fluent Owen, the charm of every assembly which he addressed, there was the silver-tongued Hughes; and there was that venerable and sacred antique (Dr Steinkopff) who sits by my side, and who is the only member of the original committee present at this meeting. (Cheers.) There too, was Wilberforce, his diminutive and apparently insignificant frame, instinct in every muscle and in every limb, with the energy which he exerted in the great cause of negro emancipation. Would that that illustrious man were with us, with all his catholicity of feeling, with all his philanthropy, his wisdom, his eloquence. And, perhaps, unseen by sense, he is present. We would say, enjoy thy repose, illustrious man! Thy name is still fragrant and thine example is animating the winds of millions still, endeavouring to

destroy slavery of mind as well as of body—(Cheers.) My Lord, we were told that a fabric composed of such materials must soon crumble to pieces with its own weight.—Where are the prophets, and where their vaticinations? The prophets are slumbering in the grave, and their predictions, like the odes of the sybil, are scattered to the winds. (Cheers.) Again, we have been told that this is a Society for the times. It is, indeed, the great breakwater of all Protestant countries against the rising tide and the dashing billows of Popery. (Cheers.) I confess, however, that I do not share in the panic of many people on this subject. It is related of Sheridan that on one occasion he said, "Let there be a corrupt Ministry, extreme prerogative, a venal House of Commons, and a servile House of Lords on one side, and give me, on the other, the liberty of the press, and I will explode them all." (Cheers.) In like manner, I say, give Popery all that it claims; give it the Inquisition, give it the detestable Maynooth grant. (Cheers.) Give it Cardinal Wiseman. (Applause.) Give it the canon law of a hierarchy, and with this little instrument (holding up a small Bible), and freedom universally to circulate it, under the blessing of God I will blow the whole away. (Great applause.) Go on, my country, to support this and other kindred institutions; go on to guard thy Sabbaths from desecration; go on to circulate God's Word, and exhibit it in all thy conduct; go on to consecrate thy power, thy commerce, thy wealth, thy science, and thine art to Him from whom all human greatness proceeds, and then never will come the time when thou shalt be, like ancient Tyre, a barren rock for fishermen to dry their nets upon; but thou wilt be preserved in thy strength and thy majesty to be foremost among the nations which shall bring glory and honour to the New Jerusalem—the most munificent contribution to the splendours of the millenium, and the largest and happiest sharer of its ineffable felicity.—(Cheers.)

The Duke of ARAND, in supporting the resolution, said—I have no old services to render to, my Lord, like those who have preceded me, but I come before you in the official capacity of President of the Scotch branch of the Bible Society—(cheers)—and I dare say the committee will acknowledge that that branch has not been altogether inefficient in its proceedings. (Hear, hear.) I am also anxious briefly to express my personal feelings in reference to this excuse. It has been observed to day that the original conception of the Society was opposed as partaking of the nature of an unprincipled coalition. Perhaps at this moment I may be supposed to have an undue bias in favour of coalitions.—(Laughter.) I certainly have a great bias towards a coalition like that which I now see around me. (Cheers.) I am not one of those who underrate the importance of the existence of separate religious communions, and this I say without reference to the question, how far the different forms of worship or of discipline may be founded upon the Word of God, but I feel that an undue importance is often attached to such differences, and I rejoice when I can go from creeds and catechisms, whether they be those of my own Church or those of other Churches, to the broad light of Christian truth. (Cheers.) I rejoice when that great standard is raised around which the whole armies of Christendom may collect themselves. Did I say "the

whole armies?" Alas! I was reminded by some expression, which fell from the lips of preceding speakers, that a considerable part of what I am anxious, as far as my own feelings are concerned, to regard as the Christian world, is not united with us in desiring to spread freely, without note or comment, the Word of God. (Hear, hear.) But it is my sincere conviction, that we ought never on such occasions as these, to speak of the Roman Catholic Church as in this respect a united body. (Hear, hear.) It is my firm belief, that the great mass of the people in Roman Catholic countries would be ready and willing to acknowledge the authority of the Word of God. (Cheers.) The only feeling of indignation which ever rises in my mind, is that which is directed against that small part of the Christian world, the office-bearers in the Roman Catholic Church, who stand between their people and access to the Word of God. (Hear, hear, and cheers.)

The Rev. Dr DUFF moved the following resolution.—"That this meeting approve of the measures and plans of the committee for the celebration of the Year of Jubilee, including the institution of a Jubilee Fund, to be appropriated to the following purposes, namely—1. The adoption, as far as practicable, of an extensive and efficient system of colportage, throughout Great Britain, in the Year of Jubilee, the supply of emigrants; together with special grants of Bible and Testaments to prisons, schools, missions, and other charitable and benevolent institutions in this country. 2. Special grants to Ireland, in such ways as may be hereafter determined upon. 3. Special offers to India, Australia, and other British colonies, by agencies, grants or otherwise. 4. Special grants to China, and such other parts of the world as may appear open to special operations. 5. The establishment of a special and separate fund, from the annual produce of which pecuniary aid may be granted, at the discretion of the committee, to persons in the employ of the Society, including the colporteurs abroad, and to their widows and children, when in circumstances to require such aid." He said, at the beginning of the last century this little island could scarcely be said to have any connection with foreign lands; God then raised it up to a position of paramount power and dominion, and at the same time he gave it a larger share of evangelical principles than was vouchsafed to any other country in Christendom. If, as a nation, we are sometimes apt to boast of having naval stations all over the globe, are we not bound to regard them as instruments for diffusing the Bible and evangelising the world, places from which spiritual warriors may go forth for the conquest of the surrounding countries? (Hear, hear.) Let us go on with the work of Bible circulation. Why should there not be a Jubilee Fund?—I will not say of £50,000 or £100,000 but of £500,000, on behalf of this great Society?—(Loud Cheers.) Nothing, I am persuaded, is wanted for this end but the will. I plead for high contributions. (Laughter.) I have an utter detestation of dribblers; they always remind me of drops of water falling in the stalactite caverns; and on this occasion I wouldn't have money reluctantly squeezed out of the pocket of Christians. (Much Cheering.) What I would propose is, that we should have an extraordinary fund, out of which the committee may be enabled to strike off a grand jubilee edition, in the 140 languages of which we have heard, and that this