

upon which the bold manhood of our fathers grew. But surely it were a weary world if at this time, in this age, nothing were settled ! Surely life is of the shortest to be spent in dreams ! While we battle out our great world problems, men are dying, and if the old faith be true—and in no battlefield has it ever been worsted yet—they go somewhere. Yes, and we are dying, too ; and are we to have no fringe upon the cloud of the sepulchre ! Are we to pass away, as we must do, if you take from us our Bible—to pass away with the cheerless conviction that life is a balance of chances, and that death is a leap in the dark, and all this when the light awaits our summons—all this when we may be at any moment summoned into a glory that is richer than golden—all this when Christ, our surety and our Saviour, sits unmoved and expecting upon His throne ! I know that there is a great deal of impermanence attaching to all human systems of teaching. I know that the test of inquiry, and the test of more accurate scholarship, and the crucial test of the last assize, may sweep away some of the inscriptions of frivolity and vanity that men have carved over the whole truth ; but the Truth that God has written remains upon the face of the rock undefaced and permanent for ever. “The grass withereth, the flower fadeth, but the Word of the Lord endureth for ever.” I have the greatest pleasure in supporting this Resolution, I support it with an earnest hope and prayer that the conscience of this large assembly may be bound under a spell from which they know not how to be disenchanted, and from under whose power they shall pass to their eternity—that each one of them may labour, and pray, and give as if the whole of the work depended upon his single contribution, at the same time resting implicitly upon the blessing of God the Holy Ghost, as if he knew—which, indeed, he does know—that we can do just nothing at all, and that it is only God who can make our work to prosper.

The second Resolution was moved by the Rev. JOHN RICHARDSON, and seconded by the Rev. Dr. MULLENS.

The Rev. C. H. SPURGEON proposed the next Resolution which was one of thanks to the officers, &c. He Said :—My Resolution is a capital illustration of gratitude, because it has in it a lively sense of favours to come, and speaks very prominently of those favours. I am glad to have to speak upon gratitude and a vote of thanks, because there is something so cheerful about that. I think, if I remember rightly, when I was last on this platform in connection with the Bible Society, you seemed so dreadfully dreary that day ; it was not long after the famous attack of Colenso, and I did not sympathize with your dreariness at all. I believe that we have arrived at the “good old times”—the times were never so old as they are now—and I very much question whether they were ever one-half as good as they are now, and they are going on to be better, thank God, and that, I trust, by very great strides. My spirit would rather be indicated by a little story which occurred to me while Mr. Richardson was speaking, as happening to myself some three years ago. Sitting in the Colosseum at Rome with two or three friends, I said, “Is it not glorious to look at this old ruin and see how Christ has conquered here ; for all these ruins tell what desolations He hath made in the earth, how He breaketh the bow and cutteth the spear in sunder ?” So I said, “Let us have a hymn of praise,” and we sang the verse—

“Jesus’ tremendous name  
Puts all our foes to flight ;  
Jesus, the meek, the angry lamb,  
A lion is in fight.”

Up came two strangers, and said, “What is that you are singing ? Let us join you.” One was an American and the other an English clergyman, and we sang together the next verse—

“By all hell’s hosts withstood,  
We all hell’s host o’erthrow ;  
And conquering them through Jesu’s blood,  
We still to conquer go.”