

with so much apathy among the community, and in the County at large, thus indicating a saddening want of public spirit and christian feeling.

A number of other Resolutions were afterwards moved and seconded by the Rev. George M'Donnell, Benjamin Dawson, and Theophilus Des Brisay, Esqrs. Messrs. Niel M'Lean, Wm. Boyd, and Anthony Rainie. Several of these gentlemen addressed the meeting in support of the Bible cause in connection with the British and Foreign Bible Society.

All the Resolutions having been agreed to, and a collection taken up, the proceedings were concluded by singing the doxology, and pronouncing the Apostolic benediction.

#### REPORT.

It is interesting and instructive to trace the commencement and the progress of the recorded revelation of the Divine will to mankind, in those holy scriptures which constitute that sacred book which we call the Bible—the book—the book of books. Before the entrance of sin into the world, Jehovah addressed His first mandate to Adam in Paradise. We have it in these words of the inspired historian—"And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it, for in the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die." How impressively is the unmerited favour of God set before us, when we behold that on the very day—the direful day of man's rebellion, the offended Sovereign did not cast off, but with love and pity, sought out our guilty and unhappy first parents, revealing Himself to them, not only for the purpose of rebuke and conviction, but also that He might announce the consoling promise of a coming Saviour—thus cheering their hearts, and animating their hopes with the publication of the grand centre truth of the glorious gospel of eternal salvation; affording them that obscure, yet certain gleam of heavenly light, which most surely presegged the full meridian glory of 'the sun of righteousness.' 'The Lord God said unto the serpent, I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel!'

After the expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise, the Most High did not cease to make Himself known to the children of men by revelation. He vouchsafed many communications to the primitive patriarchs, some of them orally and some of them in visions or dreams. This may be said to have been the mode of revelation till the time had arrived when the world, having proved that by its wisdom, it would not retain the knowledge of God; and the seed of Abraham, in whom all the families and all the nations of the earth were to be blessed, having been brought out of the house of their bondage by 'a mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm,' were constituted 'an holy nation, a peculiar people,' the witnesses and the depositaries of revealed truth upon earth, until the coming of Shiloh, concerning whom it was predicted 'and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.' The honour and benefit of having been so chosen, were great. Speaking of Moses, the illustrious leader and lawgiver of Israel, Stephen the first christian martyr says—"This is he that was in the church in the wilderness, with the angel which spake to him in the Mount Sinai, and with our forefathers; who received the lively oracles to give unto us." And Saint Paul, after enquiring 'What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is thereof circumcision? replies, much every way; chiefly because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.' How highly estimated were the blessings associated with the possession of the word of God by individual believers of the Mosaic dispensation, we may easily perceive, by observing with what admiration and gratitude they regard the boon. For instance, David in the 19th Psalm thus rapturously exclaims—"The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple: The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes: The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the

1 Genesis 2, 16 17: 2 Genesis 3, 15. 3 Deuteronomy 28, 8. 4 Genesis 49, 10. 5 Acts 7, 38. 6 Romans 3, 2.

honey comb. Moreover, by them is thy servant warned; and in keeping of them there is great reward.' Under the influence of the same love of the law of the Lord, the Psalmist in the 119th Psalm, that lengthened psalm of one hundred and seventy-six verses, in every one of which he pays a tribute of esteem and honour to the written word, declares unto God 'Thy statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage.' (verse 54.)

When the boundary of the Church of God was enlarged, and the commission given by the risen Redeemer to His Ministers, 'Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature;' the word of inspiration accompanied the heralding of the glad tidings. The Bereans were 'more noble' in that they received the word with all readiness of mind and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.' But all those to whom the doctrines of salvation were published, were also referred to 'the law and the testimony' of revelation. The whole of the New Testament is interspersed with quotations from the Old Testament, and abounds with references to it. So that in order to profit in a very high degree from what was appended to the previous canon of the scripture in the Epistles to the Churches, and other component parts of the New Testament, it was indispensable to obtain a familiar acquaintance with the previously written Holy oracles. Hence Saint Paul when reminding his beloved son Timothy of the favourable circumstances in which he had been educated, says—"And that from a child thou hast known the Holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation, through faith, which is in Christ Jesus." 'All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.'

When, three centuries ago, the God of grace was pleased to scatter the darkness which for ages had prevailed in His professing Church, He did so by means of the light of His holy word. How striking is the fact too, that in providence, the introduction of the reformation and the discovery of the art of printing were co-temporary events! How beautifully harmonious with the purpose of the Author of salvation to circulate far more widely than before, the knowledge of Himself! How mighty an engine does the press afford for the dissemination of good when its powers are made to do homage to Jehovah! It has been observed, "the transcriber who would copy a sheet of small type letter press in a day, would be deemed an expeditious scribe; but a single press can, with ease, send forth more than ten thousand such sheets in the hours of a common day's labour!"

About fifty years only have elapsed, it is well known, since the Christian Church awoke from that slumber of apathy and indifference into which it had fallen, to the duty and imperative obligation resting upon all christians of striving to convey to every sinner of the human family, the knowledge of "Christ crucified,"—the power and the wisdom of God unto salvation to every one that believeth. Here again we are called upon to note another of those remarkable coincidences which the providence of God supplies. The forty first anniversary of the British and Foreign Bible Society was celebrated upon the 7th of May last, from which the inference appears just and natural, that this correctly designated, "predigorous institution," was raised up by the God of salvation, to accompany and cooperate with the preaching of the word by every denomination of christians and in every region of the world, to which the Missionary of the cross finds access. The "foundation-stone, so to speak" of this truly excellent Society "was laid" as was happily observed at the last Annual Meeting, by one of the venerable founders even "two years" sooner, "in the deliberations of that Committee by whom the plan was formed." How pleasing, how fitted to call forth sentiments and feelings of praise to the Giver of all good, when we listen to the results. "When the Society was established in 1804," says the Lord Bishop of Chester, "the word of God was acceptable, through various translations, to one fifth of the great family of mankind;—for, where it has been supposed that the number of inhabitants on our globe extends to a thousand millions, the word of God was then accessible to two

1 Mark 15, 15: 2 Acts 17, 11: 3 2d Timothy 3, 15. 4 The Christian Spectator for January 1845. 6 Speech of W. Hankey, Esq.

hundred millions of persons, one fifth of the whole, through the medium of about forty translations. It is now accessible to about three fifths of the family of mankind, through the medium of one hundred and thirty seven translations. Again—(for it is of very little use that the Bible should be accessible, unless the Bible is also received and known)—the circulation and demand for the Bible has extended in the same proportion. Judge from the Reports of the Society in its early days, The demand for the Bible forty years ago (in this Society alone, and that may be an example of all others), was 84,000 copies a year: that you will find was our first circulation. It now extends, as you have heard, to more than 900,000 copies; and therefore the demand for the Bible has increased, since this Society was established, eleven fold, where there was then one person anxious to receive, and even to purchase the Bible, there are now eleven such persons; and therefore my expectation was not disappointed, when I assure myself that a Society established forty years ago must have shown its effects, must have made itself known, must have been seen by its results."

When we contemplate such results, we may surely sympathize with Lord Teignmouth who in his opening address as Chairman of the late Annual Meeting of the Society, said "we know that by God's blessing, we have had astounding success;" he added, "but we are also aware, and must not conceal from ourselves, that we have very great difficulties to struggle with. They are difficulties, such as have often suggested the remark, that an institution like ours, could never have been founded in this day; and I believe that it could not. Those difficulties which would have prevented its formation, now embarrass our progress. They arise, partly from the coldness and apprehension of our friends, and partly from the opposition of our enemies."

To come to our own little sphere. It is our rejoicing and matter of grateful acknowledgment to Almighty God, that in His kind providence, an Auxiliary to the great society just mentioned, has been formed in the County and place where our lot has been cast. Though honoured to do but little, in the work of christian philanthropy by means of the diffusion of the word of life, yet, with thankfulness and for encouragement, would we record, that for five years we have been enabled to persevere in doing even a little. And could we but attain to the honor, of certainly doing what we could do, then assuredly might we appropriate the consoling intimation of the apostle, "For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not."

There were at our last Annual Meeting in the hands of our Depository, three Pica or Family Bibles, nine Pearl Bibles, and seventy-two Nonpareil, seventy four English Testaments and five French, of these there have been sold three Family Bibles, one Pearl Bible, six Nonpareil or common Bibles, ten English Testaments and four French Testaments. There have been sold or given for sale, twelve common Bibles, and eighteen English Testaments, and there have been gratuitously bestowed, two common Bibles, one French Testament, and four English Testaments. We have also received from the Parent Society fifty English and fifty French Testaments the cost of which was four pounds and four pence sterling, of these, there have been sold fourteen French Testaments by your Depository, for which, and the preceding copies of the scriptures, he has received and handed over to the Treasurer the sum of three pounds sixteen shillings and four pence, the Treasurer's account shows the sum of one pound five shillings and four pence received at last Anniversary Collection, with Two Pounds ten shillings and 6 1-2 of subscriptions, and the amount received from the Depository making a total of £7 12s. 2d 1-2 from which 15s. 3d 1-2 are to be deducted for postages and other expenses incurred.

Your Committee at their last Meeting resolved to remit the sum of Five Pounds sterling to the Treasurer of the British and Foreign Bible Society, thus covering the charge against your auxiliary for the last importation of Testaments, and adding a small contribution for the purpose of assisting in the general circulation of the pure word of Divine truth. Such donations, however humble they may be in themselves, are the more important in our circumstances, for, though we believe that 'it more blessed to give than to receive,' we are

1 Speech at the Annual meeting of May, 1845. 2 2d Corinthians 8, 12.

not aware of any association in our county that has attained to the happiness of aiding, by its funds, in sending 'the truth as it is in Jesus' to perishing sinners, except your Auxiliary. Our prayer is, that the little that has been accomplished by the friends and members of this association is but the beginning of better and greater things, both as regards ourselves and our friends and brethren, among whom we dwell, in seeking by various, yet kindred methods, to promote Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

#### OREGON.

From the Washington Union.

The Whole of Oregon, or none.—This is the only alternative as an issue of territorial right.—We wholly deny the break in the American title, at latitude 46 degrees. We hold that our title from 42 deg. to 45 deg. 40 min. is one title, and, as we believe, a perfect title against all the world. As the question has been discussed for a quarter of a century before us and England, we are not aware of argument—scarcely of one phrase purporting to be an argument—which carries our title up to 49 deg. and there stops. We claim as a matter of right the territory drained by the Columbia river. In the view of the law of nations, this territory being unoccupied, has its distinctive character and unity as one region, in the fact that it is so drained. And as one region, we either own it, or do we not own it.

Away, then, once for all, with such nonsense as the claim of England north of 46 deg. is better than our claim! Let us at least show clearly and state accurately what we do in this matter.—If it has ever here deemed expedient—as a matter of compromise, and to hush up a dispute—to give away to England a certain portion of that land, all of which we consider ours; or if, from any motive of high national concernment, it may have been deemed wise to compromise the question of possession, let us say so, and put our past action on the ground. But let us make no attempt to cloak our policy under a pretended inferiority of our title to the land so sacrificed. No pretence can save us.

Meantime, the question must come up in the next Congress, "What shall we do in relation to our citizens in Oregon?" And we have no doubt that the patriotism of Congress will answer, in view of all the facts,—recognise them, protect them, establish communication with them, and extend to them a participation of our own free republican government."

The Charleston Mercury, which, without being the organ of any party, probably speaks the views of Southern statesmen, says—

What Congress is to do, by the advice of the official editor, is to take formal possession of the whole region, the inevitable consequence of which, every body knows, will be a war with England. Have we cause for such a proceeding? We are not ready for such an event? We are not going to discuss whether England can whip America, or America can whip England—leave that to schoolboys. But the interruption of peace with England and the destruction of intercourse with all the world, which would be the consequence, is something more than a question for braggarts and fools to sport about. We do not believe that Southern statesmen are quite prepared to sacrifice the whole resources of their section on such an issue; that they are ready to maintain at a cost of two million bales of cotton per annum, that we have a "clear and unquestionable title" to every foot of ground in a territory which we have consented to occupy in common with the other claimant for twenty years, and ownership of which has been in dispute ever since the country was discovered.

To negotiate, after the declarations of the American President and the British Minister, is manifest, and mere child's play. There is not an inch of ground left to negotiate upon. Arbitration can only settle it—unless the parties can summon the sense and moderation to end where they ought to have begun, with following the policy indicated by Mr. Callahan in his speech on the subject.

From the Society Islands.—The whale ship Three Brothers, of Nantucket, has arrived at Martha's Vineyard, last from Tahiti, July 3. Capt. Michahell reports that the natives were still in the mountains, in hopes of getting some assistance from the British. The French frigate Uranie, and the British frigate Salamander, were at Tahiti.—It would therefore appear that the arrangement between the British and French Governments, for the