

and position of the Bible Union, and find that the blood-stained banner of Prince Immanuel floats over her. As to the reasonableness of her position, her apology is before the world. A succession of anniversaries unparalleled in the history of voluntary associations for clearness of argument and pure zeal for the cause of God has left nothing to opponents but expediency and ridicule. Revision is now the watchword of all. Not only the principle is made so clear as to be unmistakable, but the spirit itself witnesses with our spirits that we are following in her footsteps, whose ways are pleasant and whose paths are peace. Here, then, we take our position. Having the truth and the spirit of truth we claim that we may expect to succeed. Let us embrace the truth and go fearlessly on. God has given us the Bible; the world has it, but the enemy has treated it as he has treated the Church—thrown around it obscurities, which all must be cleared away. The Bible Union commits it to the science and literature of the world, trusting in God that it shall be brought safe to land, prepared to lead the sacramental host of God's elect to the heavenly Canaan. When the storm gathers we shall not turn pale, but be full of hope, and give as a reason of our hope—not that we carry Caesar, but the Bible.

The President read a letter from Professor W. C. Duncan, who was present at the morning session, stating that he was compelled to return to New Orleans by the Black Warrior, and regretting his inability to remain in the city till the adjournment of the Convention. The congregation joined in singing hymn 761, after which an address was delivered by P. F. Jones. The following is an abstract of his remarks:—

Mr. President—The American Bible Union has come into existence for the avowed purpose of procuring the faithful translation of the sacred Scriptures into all languages. This, sir, I believe to be the highest object, the noblest enterprise, and will be, when accomplished, the most glorious achievement of the church on earth. In this grand enterprise the church ought to be united, and it is lamentable that it cannot be; but, sir, is it meet that such a work of importance should be delayed, because there are some who will not come up to their duty in the work of translating and revising? The accomplishment of this single work alone, (the revision of the English Scriptures,) is of sufficient magnitude to enlist all the learning and energy of the Christian world. Although the Bible Union does not confine itself to this single object, yet it must be looked upon by the mass of Christians who read our version as the grand point of their interest in the Union. Any man who believes the Bible to be the revealed will of God, is solemnly bound to dissent from any translation which he knows does not give the full sense of the original, no matter how long he may have used it. I regard the American Bible Union as the star of hope to the church. I regard it, sir, originating in such a time and under such a state of things as a Providence full of mercy to the Christian world. God has favoured it, and thus signalized his approbation of its course. It began amidst opposition the most bitter. It began without funds, and its first year only reached five thousand dollars; the second, ten thousand; the third, sixteen thousand; and now, sir, in its fourth anniversary, it can report twenty-three thousand dollars. This is not all. Men, who, when this society was formed, said, "we do not need any revision," are now, in 1853, making propositions to the friends of the Bible Union, saying, "If we confine ourselves to revision only, we can sweep everything with us." Well, sir, I don't know but we can, but we don't want everything. Sir, men who in 1850 can say one thing, and in 1853 another, upon matters of such vital importance as a pure Bible for the world, will be no help in carrying forward to final triumph a glorious principle. It is the purpose of the Union to hold up to the world a Bible dimmed by no human authority, defaced by no images of Popery, acknowledging the authority of no king but Jesus, denying the dictation of parliaments and cardinals, and summoning the world to a solemn tribunal before unveiled Truth. If you circulate such a Gospel it will defend itself, and win to the Christian faith the supporters of superstition. If you circulate an impure version you will need to keep a standing army of Christian scholars to defend its doctrines from corruption. The doctrines of the Church should be found in the Bible, and not be what the Church can make out of a badly translated Bible.

The Bible, faithfully translated, and in the hands of a sanctified, truth-loving Church, forms a power against which the gates of hell shall not prevail. And finally, Mr. President, may you live to see the battle fought, the victory won, the foes of pure translation and revision all silenced, and Truth on her way to the zenith of the moral heavens, spotless as the sun.

Rev. Mr. Jones presented the following resolution which was adopted:—

Whereas, It is evident that God has employed agencies and organizations in every age for the purification, edification, and advancement of his church, the purity and preservation of His Word, therefore,

Resolved, That we regard the American Bible Union as an aggressive and progressive organization, dictated by Divine Providence, demanded by a perishing world and a suffering church, and that we will most cheerfully give to it our confidence, and co-operation, and support.

At this stage of the proceedings prayer was offered by Rev. A. Wheelock, and after benediction by Rev. Mr. Armitage, the Convention adjourned till half-past seven o'clock in the evening.

EVENING SESSION.

There was a larger attendance at the evening session than at either of the two previous meetings. Rev. Dr. Armitage presided, in the absence of Rev. Dr. Cone, the President. A portion of the Scriptures was read by Rev. P. R. Roberts, and prayer was offered by Rev. B. T. Leach, of New York, after which Rev. James Challen, of Philadelphia, made an address on the necessity of revising the Scriptures. He was followed by James Edmonds, Esq., of Jeddoo, New York, at the conclusion of whose remarks the following report was made:—

Your committee report that at ten and a half o'clock to-morrow morning we listen to an address from Frederic Crowe on the Spanish Scriptures, succeeded by voluntary remarks upon the following resolutions:—

Resolved, That the American Bible Union came into existence by force of circumstances; other Bible Societies, by general consent, either neglecting the revision of the English Scriptures, or positively refusing to do that long-desired object.

Resolved, That while we are not unmindful of the necessity of correct versions in other languages, the revision of our own will demand chiefly our first labors, and we design to go on with our enterprise until every English family on earth shall have presented to them a copy of the English Scriptures made according to that inspired pattern from the finger of the Almighty.

At three o'clock in the afternoon there will be a meeting for voluntary addresses, and each speaker is not to occupy more than fifteen minutes.

At seven o'clock in the evening Dr. Achilli, of Italy, and Dr. J. L. Waller, of Louisville, Ky. will address the meeting.

This report was adopted, and the Convention adjourned.

SECOND DAY.

In accordance with the report of the Committee of Arrangements, a prayer meeting was held in the lecture room of the church in the morning, at 9 o'clock. The public meeting was organized at 10 o'clock, by the President, Dr. Cone, and the exercises were commenced by singing the seven hundred and sixty-third hymn. Prayer was made by Rev. N. P. Foster, of New Hampshire, after which the congregation was addressed by Rev. Frederic Crowe, Missionary in Guatemala.

The following report of the Committee on the Spanish Scriptures was read by Rev. J. Newton Hill, of New York:—

That the gospel of Matthew and Mark have been finally completed. Matthew has arrived at the rooms, and is ready for distribution. Copies have been sent to St. Domingo, Indian Territory, and Trinidad, to the Baptist there. Mark is expected to arrive in a few days. The other parts of the New Testament are in a state of considerable forwardness. Brother Norton, of England, in a letter to the Corresponding Secretary, states the following facts:—Services, including expenses, type, composition and stereotyping, is likely to be about £310 for the Spanish New Testament, and the paper and presswork for 5,000 copies about £120 or £130 more, besides the binding, so that the £151 16s. 2½d., which constitutes the entire sum received for this purpose is

about half the cost, exclusive of the presswork, paper and binding, of the five thousand copies. I have paid for half the paper and presswork of Matthew from the funds of the Board, but have since questioned whether I had authority to do this. If the Board wishes me to do so for the future, and to have half the five thousand copies sent to them, it will require some £80 more, I suppose, to meet half the entire expense of the whole New Testament. He recommends a larger paper for the present edition, but did not think the Edinburgh trustees had funds for this increase in cost. The report concludes by recommending that the separate books of the New Testament be bound in attractive style.

The foregoing report was adopted unanimously, after which Rev. John L. Waller presented the report of the Committee on the English Scriptures, of which we make the following abstract:—"The committee say that they regard the revision of the common English version as the great enterprise in which the Bible Union is engaged. In proportion to the success which attends this will be the probable prosperity of all the other enterprises naturally and legitimately associated with it. The excellence of the version in our own language, produced by the joint labors of the distinguished scholars employed by the Union, must give a tone and character to all other revisions made under the auspices of the same body. Nor will its influences be confined to the works of the Bible Union. All intelligent translators and revisors of the Sacred Volume, throughout the world, will be more or less influenced by it, and sacred literature in all lands where the Christian religion is known will be affected by it. In view of such facts, and of the inestimable consequences to the souls of men, growing out of the faithful and accurate portraiture of the divine mind in the book which contains the revelation of God's will to man, your committee are not surprised at the extreme caution with which the Board has proceeded. While they admire the plans adopted and the measures presented to complete the revision at the earliest period consistent with the attainment of the highest degree of excellence in the work itself, they approve of the purpose not to make the least sacrifice of merit to the desirableness of expedition in the accomplishment of the object. They therefore recommend to the Union to express its decided approbation of the extension of time yielded to the request of revisors. The committee also express the opinion, that while it is right and proper that the Board, as employing the donations of the benevolent, should continue to exercise in every department a rigid economy in the expenditure of money, no amount of money necessary should be spared in the endeavor to make the English version a work of the greatest possible merit. The Board should be encouraged not to withhold any expenditure in this department which affords a reasonable prospect of adding to the value and excellence of the revision.

After addresses from Rev. Elon Galusha, of New York, Remington, of Cincinnati, O., and Rev. Dr. S. E. Shepard, of New York, the meeting adjourned.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Convention reassembled at 3 o'clock, and the singing of the 761st hymn commenced the exercises. Prayer was offered by Rev. N. B. Baldwin, and the resolutions offered the evening before by the committee were called up by Dr. E. Shepard, who moved their adoption. The motion was seconded by Rev. E. Galusha, and the resolutions were unanimously adopted.

The Rev. W. H. Wickoff made a few remarks on the objects of the Convention. He was followed by Rev. Dr. Hill, of Carmel, N. Y., who contended, in a brief speech that the existence of the Bible Union was a matter of necessity, and that the work which it had to perform was imperatively demanded by the religious necessities of the age.

The Rev. James Belcher, of Maine, presented the following report of the Committee on the German Scriptures:—"That they regard the German language as one of the most interesting now in use, and that the immense number of our countrymen, to whom it is their mother tongue, make it in some sense to us a national language. The circumstances of Divine Providence which have induced the Board, at this early period, to engage in the revision of the German Testament, appear to your committee to be of too marked a character to be neglected. Your committee believe that God is gradually opening the way for a

pure version of the Scriptures in German, and they are disposed to congratulate the Union upon the fact, while they render thanks to Him who openeth and no man shutteth, and who shutteth and no man openeth.

The report was adopted, as was also the following from the Committee on the Italian Scriptures:—"Your committee cherish devout gratitude to Almighty God for the signal opportunity afforded to the Union of prosecuting the work of revision in the Italian Scriptures during the past year. The Italian language is spoken at this time by at least twenty-four millions of souls in Italy proper, and also by multitudes of Italians both in the United States and Great Britain. This, in connection with the fact that the people of Sicily, Malta, and the islands of the Mediterranean, together with those of Barbary, Egypt, and various parts of Turkey, are better acquainted with the Italian than other European language, is highly significant of the importance of this work. If the Union shall succeed in producing a clear and truthful expression of the mind of the Holy Spirit in Italian, a bold attack will be made at once upon all the errors of Antichrist in his own house, and none of them will yield more quickly to its assaults than that which the venerable Dr. Gill denominates "the Post and Pillar of Popery." We believe the effort will be honored of God as illustrative of the great principle which He never repudiated, and for which we must, in fidelity to Him, ever contend. Thus the "first works" of the Union shall be a pledge of the faithful application of that principle to all succeeding and cotemporary versions, until uniting obedience to its constitution shall have procured and circulated the most faithful version of the Sacred Scriptures "in all languages throughout the world."

The following report from the Committee on the Siamese Scriptures was read by Rev. A. C. Wheat, of Philadelphia, and on motion adopted:—"The full and interesting communications made in the annual report of the Board of Managers in regard to the Siamese Scripture renders it unnecessary for this Committee, to make a lengthened report. This Committee, therefore, only call the special attention of the members and friends of the Bible Union to the letters of the missionaries and the remarks of the Board to this department of their labors, confidently believing that such perusal will be highly satisfactory and encouraging to all who desire to give the precious Word of God, faithfully translated, to the benighted pagan nations as well as to those called Christian. The committee, however, are of opinion that such an occasion should not pass without some testimonial to the character of the Siamese New Testament, and the facilities which seem to be opened before the missionaries for its circulation. Not only were his colleagues in the mission convinced of the extraordinary scholarship of the lamented Dr. Jones, but it is understood that all the missionaries in Siam of other denominations regarded him as a profound scholar and a most judicious translator. This work is esteemed by them as standard. The missionaries all agree that there is a most extraordinary aptitude among the Siamese for acquiring information, and a general desire to receive and read the Sacred Books.

At the conclusion of these reports the meeting was addressed by a number of speakers. The congregation joined in singing the 772d hymn, the President pronounced the benediction, and the Convention adjourned.

EVENING SESSION.

The last session of the Convention was attended by a larger congregation than we have seen at any time during the anniversary of the Union. Rev. Dr. Armitage presided in the absence of Dr. Cone. A hymn was sung by the congregation, after which a portion of the 119th psalm was read by Rev. Dr. Wheelock, and prayer said by Rev. Dr. Foster. Mr. Buckbee, the Assistant Secretary, read the report of the Committee on Members and Delegates. He stated that sixteen States were represented; that the number of delegates present was 300, and that the number of visiting brethren and friends is about 1,200.

This report was ordered to be published, after which Mr. Buckbee presented the following resolution:—

Resolved, That the thanks of the Union be presented to the ladies of the First Baptist Church, and other friends, who have with such assiduous kindness entertained the members