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## RELIGIOUS.

From the New York Observer.

MR. WIRT'S ADDRESS.

To the several Bible Societies, and Friends of the Bible cause throughout the State of Maryland, and on the North side of the Potomac, in the District of Columbia.

Friends of the Bible Cause.—It is at the request of the Bible Society of the State of Maryland, through their Board of their Managers, that I presume to address you. It is, therefore, you perceive an official duty which I am not at liberty to decline. My regret is, that it has been so long and unavoidably delayed by my ill health.

The title by which I am instructed to address you, "The Friends of the Bible Cause," warrants the assumption that you have attended, with interest, to the means which you have been heretofore employed for the propagation of the Holy Scriptures throughout the world. You know, consequently, that in England, in France, and elsewhere, abroad, Bible Societies, on a large scale, have been for several years in active and successful operation; that the great American Bible Society, whose theatre of contribution is the whole United States, is in immediate connexion & correspondence with those foreign societies; and that, in several of the states, auxiliary societies have been formed, which stand connected with the national society, remitting their surplus funds, after the supply of their own domestic wants, to that society, for the purpose of being applied to the larger objects of the association. You are also informed, we presume, that the State of Maryland has not been wanting to herself on this interesting occasion, but that, by a general movement of the Christian community, without distinction of sects, a Bible Convention, for the State, was held at Baltimore in the month of May last, in which that portion of the District of Columbia, formerly composing part of the State of Maryland, was also represented; and that, by this Convention, the report of a committee was adapted, proposing to organize the State into a complete system of societies, for the purpose of producing a more prompt and effectual development of its resources. Copies of this report, including the proposed constitutions for the different societies, will be distributed wherever it has not been already done; and you will perceive that the plan is at once very simple, and, it is believed, very efficient; the proposition being to have one principal society for the State, with branches in each county, and minor branches in each election district of the several counties; so that this appeal to Christian charity will knock at the door of every house and every cottage within our limits, and will, we trust, be blessed of Him in whose name it will be made.

You are all aware of the surprising and prodigious results that have been realized in every department of labor, in every country where the experiment has been made, by the force of union and concert of action. You cannot, therefore, perceive the vast advantages which the simple system proposed must have over the separate efforts of a few unconnected societies, sparsely scattered in different parts of the state. A few of these societies have existed and still exist among us. It is not intended to detract from their merits. Far from it. Every Christian has been cheered by their spirit, and has felt grateful for their services in this labor of love. Nor can those societies themselves be otherwise than gratified to

see the whole state at length catching the impulse which they have given, and assuming an organization that bids fair to render that labor thorough and effectual. It is indeed confidently hoped that those societies will see the advantages that they will give to the cause which they have so much and so justly at heart, by incorporating themselves into the system now proposed, and that they will throw themselves promptly and cheerfully into it, and animate it with a double portion of that vigor which has heretofore so honorably characterized their proceedings.

It will be seen that under the arrangement proposed, the Bible Society of the State is a mere agent of the county and district societies; its functions being to unite and harmonize their surplus funds, according to the provisions of their respective constitutions. Hence the society of the state can do nothing effectual in furtherance of the common object, without the aid of those auxiliary societies. It is for this reason, and in the hope that the plan devised and adopted, by the Convention, will be proved by the constituents, that I have been specially instructed, by the society of the State, to entreat, in their name, and the name of Him under whose banner they are enlisted, that the friends of the Bible cause throughout our limits, will, without delay, form themselves into county and district societies, in execution of this plan; and that they will report their proceedings to the Corresponding Secretary of the State Society, with the view that we may know what progress has been made in the work, and whether it may be proper for us to direct our further efforts. It is hoped that men of influence, friends of the Bible cause, will not withhold that influence from Him who withheld nothing from us; but that they will, without hesitation or delay, begin this pious work, to their respective spheres, by calling meetings, and organizing societies, as soon as possible, both for the counties and districts. The cause is one which calls upon us to put forth all our strength, and to it immediately. Millions of our fellow creatures are dying in the depth of spiritual darkness, and in total ignorance of that name, which is the only one that has been given under Heaven, whereby men can be saved. Let us do our utmost to dispel this darkness, and unite in one consensaneous effort to place the State where she deserves to stand, in this noblest of all competitions, that of seeing who shall do most good to the world of man, most for the honor of Him who died that we might live.

You will observe that in the Report of the committee of the Bible Convention, it has been estimated that they are, at least, 80,000 professing Christians within our bounds, and it is suggested that if we estimate the whole number at only 60,000, and the average amount contributed by each, at only fifty cents, (how much below the average amount squandered, annually by each of us, on comparatively worthless objects!) it will give \$30,000 as our yearly offering to this noble cause.—The belief is farther expressed, in that Report that \$2,000, a year, will keep our own state supplied with the Bible; hereafter, it is added, with a feeling of generous anticipation, "What a large fund should we thus have left for the relief of less favoured portions of our country, and the supply of those distant lands which are yet uncheered with the light of God's truth."

You will probably have seen, by the public prints, that our sister state of Virginia, animated with the zeal which becomes this high and holy cause, is making the most strenuous exertions in its support; and that according to the computation of her State Bible Society, it is in the power of Christendom, by judicious application of means easily at their disposal, to supply within twenty years, the entire reading population of the world with the Holy Scriptures. Her society has, by its resolution, announced this object to the American Bible Society for their consideration; by whom it has been approved; and the affiliated foreign societies, already in the field, will be invited, we have no doubt, successively, to co-operate in the achievement of this humane and

magnificent enterprise. Every thing seems to favor its accomplishment.—Both at home and abroad, Christians of all denominations have, through respect to this cause, laid aside their sectarian feelings, have met on the Bible ground, in the true spirit of primitive Christian brethren, and have united heart and hand, for the purpose of producing one great concerted movement of the whole Christian world, for the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom. What an effecting spectacle is such a union as this; and what may not be expected from the persevering efforts of such a body, in such a cause, crowned, as we have reason to hope, those efforts, if made sincerely and in singleness of heart will be, by the approving smiles of heaven? Besides this propitious union of all Christendom at home, there are other indications of success abroad, of the most cheering character. Obstructions, heretofore existing to the admission of the Bible into foreign heathen nations, are already extensively removed, and are in a still farther progress of removal; and missionaries of the cross, bearing the Book of Life, are now cordially received and welcomed among them.—Thus a gracious Providence seems to be inviting us to action, by preparing the way for the fulfilment of this great and beneficent design; and it rests with us to say whether we will or will not accept this invitation of our God and Father, and unite, sincerely and ardently, with our Christian brethren in doing His holy will. Can Christians and friends of the Bible cause, hesitate as to the course which it becomes them to take? Can we sit still and unmoved, as if we had neither part nor lot in this matter, while the work is glowing all around us? Can we see the whole Christian world in motion, and marching with firm and ready step in this all comprehensive work of love, and yet stand aloof ourselves, in cold indifference as if it were no concern of ours? Can we do this, with the knowledge that eye is upon us before which the secrets of all hearts are as open as the sunlit hill, and that, with all of us, so far as our eternal destiny is concerned the day of reckoning is near at hand?

But it is far more agreeable to appeal to higher and nobler motives than these of terror. The founder of our faith has instructed us that they are two commandments, on which hang all the law and the prophets; the first, and greatest of which is, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God, with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind;" and the second is like unto it, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." And lest we should seek to shelter our selfishness under too confined an interpretation of this word "neighbor." He has left, on record, the beautiful parable of the good Samaritan, by which we are most effectually taught that, in the sense of this divine commandment, all our neighbors who are connected with us by the common ties of humanity, and that although they may belong to different and distant nations, they are equally entitled to our strongest sympathies and sweetest charities. Thus we are instructed that love—love to God and man, comprehends the whole circle of our duties; it comprehends them, because it ensures their performance, and ensures it from the best and noblest motive, the motive of love. For in what way this love acts, where ever it exists, we require no teaching to instruct us; we know that it is vigilant, prompt, and forward to do the will, and promote the highest happiness of its objects. It does not wait to be entreated. It does not require its cold reluctant, penurious hand to be unclenched, by the shame of a public refusal, on some rare Sabbath occasion. On the contrary, it is alert, active, indefatigable, in seeking, and finding, and even making occasions, both private and public, of rendering useful service to the objects of its attachment; and zealous and generous in improving every such occasion where it occurs.—We are not driven to any abstract disquisitions, nor even to the example of the primitive Christians, to prove the mode in which this love to God and man displays itself, whatever it exists in truth and power. We have, before

our eyes, a living illustration, of the most striking and captivating character, in the scenes to which we have already alluded; the spectacle of all Christendom once more loosened from its foundations, not, as in former times, to precipitate itself on Asia, for the comparatively trivial purpose of rescuing the infidel, a small spot of earth, at the farther end of the Mediterranean; but for the far nobler purpose of rescuing, from the darkness of idolatry, a fallen world, and restoring it to the pure light of the gospel, and the peaceful dominion of its true and rightful heir, the Son of God. Christians, and friends of the Bible cause, ask no better test of the existence of this love, than a cordial, faithful, cheering co-operation, in extending the glory of the cross, and hastening the day, which will surely come, when every knee shall bow to the Lord, and every tongue shall confess to God; when the Redeemer's kingdom shall cover the earth, even as the waters cover the great deep. Blessed will he be, who, in the true and deep spirit of Christian charity, shall contribute effectually to this great result. No civic crown that Rome, in the days of her glory ever conferred, for saving the life of a citizen can vie in lustre with his, who, from love to God and man, shall have been instrumental in saving the immortal lives of his fellow creatures. Let us only reflect that, according to the most approved computation, twenty millions of immortal beings, pass into eternity, every year, of whom four-fifths, it is probable never heard of the Redeemer's name. O! what a field is here for the exercise of our deepest solitudes, our most fervent charities, and most intense exertions; and with what vehement importunity does the occasion urge us to immediate action.

And shall this appeal be confined to professing Christians only? We believe, may we are confident, that there are many friends of the Bible, who are not yet in open communion with any church; may more, we believe that there are many, regarding this subject in a light merely moral and political, have seen such demonstrative proofs of the Bible, in taming and civilizing the barbarous regions of the earth, in elevating and enlarging the intellectual character of their inhabitants; in refining their manners, and fitting them for the society of nations; that from motives of philanthropy, and patriotism alone they may well be numbered among the friends of the Bible. As patriots & philanthropists, then, we appeal to them to unite with us in the debarbarizing of the earth and restoring fallen man to his proper lustre and dignity. In this common enterprise, we offer them the victorious banner under which Constantine achieved his brightest conquests—the banner of the cross; and it is our prayer and trust, that in the hour which crowns our joint, arm with success, in the holiest of wars, we may greet them by a still more fraternal and endearing name than that of co-patriots and philanthropists.

May the God of all mercies enlighten, guide and support us all in the discharge of this high and solemn duty, and direct this great enterprise to His own glory and the salvation of a perishing world.

WM. WIRT.

President of the Bible Society of Maryland.

JOHN COLEMAN, Corresponding Secretary.

Baltimore, Sept. 2, 1833.

The Conquests of Religion.—Of the most difficult conquests, indeed, is that of the human eye. While the evil done in its name is seen by all, and dwelt upon in triumph by the adversary—its pure and holy conquests are often effected in stillness and silence; in the abode of poverty, in the obscurity of humble and retired life.—Who is there, that was a true Christian, in his life and in his death who has seen the holy calm that sheds itself over that soul, where envy and hatred and pride are sounds unknown? who that has seen the bright & holy glow of devotion diffused over the countenance? who that has heard the fervid accents of a Christian's prayer?

who that knows the joy of a Christian's communion with his Maker, the devout aspiration of a soul which is the temple of the Holy Spirit, adorned and sanctified by his best and richest gifts and graces? who that has seen the Christian struggling with the storms of life—though cast down, not destroyed; though perplexed, not in despair; submitting with humble resignation to the correction of his heavenly Father, and gathering the peaceable fruits of righteousness from and tears? And yet more, who that has seen that sight, on which angels look with joy,—that hallowed bed where a Christian renders up his soul, unto a faithful Creator; where, with no vain display, no idle rapture, the dying saint, knowing of a truth that he is faithful who promises, relies, in the last awful scenes of life, with humble confidence, on that hand which has borne him through all the storms and struggles of his earthly pilgrimage, and which will now cheer his country, in his passage through the dark valley of the shadow of death! This is, not what Christianity can do, but what it does, day by day; not what it does for the learned and enlightened Christian only, but what it does to shed light and joy over the humble abode of the lowly and ignorant.

From the American Daily Advertiser.

The twenty-fourth annual meeting of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, was held in this city in the Seventh Presbyterian Church, on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday on last week. This body is strictly a Board of Commissioners for the purpose of conducting Protestant Missionary operations, for the Congregational Reformed Dutch and Presbyterian denominations of this country, among the unevangelized nations. It was originally constituted by the General Association of Massachusetts, and has been formally sanctioned and recommended to the confidence and co-operation of their churches; by the other General Associations in New England, and by the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church, and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church. From its formation it has gone on steadily advancing in the confidence of the Christian community, in the amount of pecuniary means placed at its disposal, and in the extent of its missionary operations in distant parts of the world. At its late meeting in this city, the Hon. John Cotton Smith, of Connecticut, President of the Board, presided, and various other gentlemen of distinction, Clergymen and Laymen, from different parts of the country, attended. The proceedings were of a highly interesting character, especially on Friday, when various resolutions relating to the past and future progress of the benevolent enterprise in which the Association are engaged, were presented and adopted, which elicited some animated and eloquent discussion.

The Report of the Prudential Committee presented a most encouraging view of operations of the Board. It has at present twenty-two different missions, in Greece, at Constantinople, in Syria, to the Jews of Turkey, at Bombay, in India, in Ceylon, Siam, China, Indian Archipelago, Sandwich Islands, Patagonia; among the Cherokees east of the Mississippi, the Chickasaws, the Cherokees west of the Mississippi, the Choctaws, the Creeks, the Osages, the Stockbridges, at Mackinaw, amongst the Ojibways, at Maumee in Ohio, and among the Indians in the State of New York. In these missions are comprised sixty different stations. The missionary work at these stations is carried on by eighty-three ordained missionaries, six physicians, not ordained, six printers, twenty-six other assistants, missionaries, farmers, mechanics, &c., and one hundred and twenty-six females, two hundred and forty-seven sent from the churches of this country; and four native preachers, and forty-six native assistants. Total, two hundred and ninety-seven. Of these nine hundred and thirty-five, twenty-five are of the male and female assistants—total, forty-eight, were sent forth within the past year. Several new missions,