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# ADDRESS,

DELIVERED BEFORE

THE

NEWARK BIBLE SOCIETY;

ON THE LAST SABBATH IN JUNE, 1818,

BEING ITS

FOURTH ANNIVERSARY MEETING;

IN THE

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

IN

NEWARK.

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By THEODORE FRELINGHUYSEN, Esq.

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NEWARK, (N. J.)

PRINTED BY JOHN TUTTLE & CO.

1818.

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**At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Newark  
Bible Society, July 6, 1818,—**

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Board be presented to THEODORE FRELINGHUYSEN, Esq. for his address, delivered at the last Anniversary Meeting of the Society, and that he be requested by the Secretary to furnish a copy of the same for publication."

Extract from the Minutes.

WILLIAM TUTTLE, *Secretary.*

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## A D D R E S S .

**T**HE NEWARK BIBLE SOCIETY has constituted me its organ, to present before a christian people, a brief exposition of its views and its wants. I approach the subject of the BIBLE with great reverence. The momentous interests which it unfolds—the sublime hopes it inspires—and the awful fears it awakens, may well explain my feelings.

This Society was instituted for the purpose of promulgating the sacred Scriptures among the ignorant and destitute. Its great concern is, to convey the Word of Life to the abodes of poverty—and wherever, within the reach of its means, there exists a fellow being, who needs a Bible, to furnish him with this inestimable treasure. It is an object, which reason applauds—which conscience dictates—and, we humbly hope, God will approve. A system of charity that ameliorates the miseries of man—that feeds the mind with immortal truth, and extends its results beyond the concerns of time, deserves your countenance—and, I doubt not, will receive the aid of your substance and your prayers. We ask no offerings at the

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shrine of sectarian jealousy ; we wish no proselytes to sect or party. The spirit which animates our efforts, we trust, breathes nothing of bigotry. You behold these associations embracing all denominations of christians. Exercising a faith in a common Saviour, they feel a community of interest and regard to the word, which reveals his character and his cause. There exists here no ground for collision in sentiment, or hostility in conduct. All look to the Bible as their guide—seek it as their comforter—and produce it as the charter of their privileges and hopes. The undivided efforts of the christian world have been exerted upon this interesting subject. The result is, that the Bible is now publishing in almost every language under heaven. No difficulties can impede the progress of the truth. The obscurities of Pagan dialects—the perplexities of the Chinese character, yield to the faithful and laborious perseverance of christian enterprise, and receive into the bosom of their language the words of eternal life. The wanderer of Siberia—the poor deluded Pagan of India, may soon learn in their native tongue, the way of reconciliation and pardon.

The value of this Revelation to man, its immense influence upon his moral character and happiness, can never be appreciated. *Eternity* will not be too long, to measure all its worth. Christian ! here pause upon your privileges—Look over the horrid abominations of idolatry—and adore the Grace, which hath made you to differ.

The world by wisdom knew not God. Philosophy had exhausted all her powers of investigation and failed. Morality proudly strove to preside over and regulate the des-

tinies of man. She catechised long and beautifully on virtue and vice—She read lectures of the purest eloquence on truth and honour—and awarded the richest of her stores as an incentive to merit. But it was all in vain. The desolation and wretchedness remained. The wound inflamed by her art—the disease gathered strength from her remedies. In all her volumes was not to be found, the balm of Gilead. The mind harrassed with care, tortured by remorse, and overwhelmed with forebodings of an unknown eternity, searched the lessons of human wisdom—explored the systems of the schools—and, in painful anxiety, watched the lips of a Socrates or a Plato; but, in the anguish of despair, was forced to exclaim, “*miserable comforters are ye all.*”

“ Ah tinkling cymbal and high sounding brass,  
 “ Smitten in vain! such musick cannot charm  
 “ Th’ eclipse, that intercepts truth’s heavenly beam,  
 “ And chills and darkens a wide wandering soul,  
 “ The still small voice *was* wanted.”

The learned heathen, with a modesty, unknown to the modern infidel, lamented his ignorance, and deplored the feebleness of his views. *He* felt the necessity of a revelation from Heaven. But infidelity first robs from this blessed volume all that is valuable in her system, and then, with impious boldness, raises that very system in hostility to God and his word, and proudly exults in what she calls the perfectability of human reason.

The revelation hath been made. Praised be God, the appalling uncertainties of the grave are all explained—and life and immortality have irradiated the gloom of the

sepulchre. Oh! what an hour was that, for a guilty world, which ushered in the day spring from on high—which brought from the bosom of the Father the Saviour of sinners. Well might angels sing glory to God in the highest, when they proclaimed peace on earth and good will to man. That inscrutable mystery, which baffled the conceptions of those pure spirits that God could be just, and yet pardon a sinner, is developed. But such are the depths of its wisdom and mercy, that the angelic hosts still wonder and adore.

Christians! testify your gratitude. Send the Word of this Salvation, into every region of want and misery. As it is the most precious tidings, that ever reached your ears, be the messengers of this glorious intelligence to thousands, who now are living without God; to whom Heaven presents no hopes, and Hell no fears. The cries and wants of uninstructed millions come up before you. They are not strangers. However distance may separate, or complexion or character distinguish you—their pilgrimage is the same with your own. They will meet you at the bar of God. And can you be indifferent to their welfare?

Shall we be told, that institutions of this kind are too much multiplied? That every day presents some new appeal to our benevolence? That charity has become a business, and obtrudes itself upon the avocations of life? We thank God for it. Yes! my friends, it ought to be your business—and every christian will rejoice, that the work of mercy is so common.

It may be regarded as one of the most auspicious signs of these wonderful times, that the promotion of the spiritual improvement of man, is felt to be a dictate of duty—a matter no longer of choice, but of conscience. For ages, the christian world had before its eyes the wants of the Pagan—and yet no great effort was made to relieve them. Those reasons for indifference, which now would be shamed into silence, then were efficient, for nothing was done. But examine the pages of the Bible and Missionary Journals—cast up the accounts of beneficence, and they will furnish a testimony to christian liberality, which, in other times, would have astonished us. The coffers of the rich are opened, and thousands and tens of thousands are freely given. Here and there to brighten the page, the generous sacrifice of the poor is recorded. Some comfort is resigned, that he may save a mite, for a cause so dear to his heart. Here a virtuous female adds new value to a costly ornament, by devoting it to these benign purposes—and there a circle of pious children are pleased to dedicate their little savings, to an object which interests all Christendom.

These may be called trifles. But they are such trifles as furnish the sure and satisfactory indicia of public sentiment. They are those specific marks, which the historian would search for, in ascertaining national character. And on this subject, they do evince in strong and conclusive evidence, a most joyful truth—that in every rank of life, among all the varieties of condition and circumstance, an extraordinary attention is excited and directed to the immortal interests of man.

You have all read, and must have read with wonder, the diaries of the American Missionaries to the land of Heathens. And when you perceived youth, intelligence, and refinement, breaking away from all the blessings of civilized life—renouncing the consolations and endearments of social intercourse—When you beheld them, with a calm and heavenly resolution, consenting to form permanent relations with strangers and savages, in a Pagan land, where no Sabbath delights, and no Bible enlightens—and this, to proclaim a Saviour's righteousness to ears that never heard his name—tell me, did you not feel with an overwhelming emotion, that there was reality in this work?—That the hand of God was visible in its power and great glory?

And this cause must prevail. The powers of darkness once arrayed their efforts to exterminate the truth at its birth—but the mouth of the Lord had spoken it—and Heaven and Earth shall pass away, before one tittle of that word shall fail. The world is awakened from its long slumber. A ray of hope beams upon the regions of darkness and death. The hour of mercy, to the benighted nations of the earth, approaches. The sounds of salvation are now heard on the banks of the Ganges; and ere long, her bloody altars will be displaced by temples, dedicated to the living God. Her shores, now awfully consecrated by the immolation of infants, will soon resound with high praises to the Babe of Bethlehem; and the Lamb in the midst of the Father's throne, will become the adored object of pilgrimages, now made by wretched deluded man to the infernal car of Juggernaut.

Africa hears that dying sound ! She listens to catch that whisper of hope. Again it swells on her breeze—it breaks upon her enraptured ear. She rises from the long sleep of ages. With the eye of faith, she beholds her great Deliverer near, and believing and adoring, “she stretches forth her hands unto God.” Yes ! much injured, abused people, a glorious liberty awaits you. A deliverance from a thralldom, more dreadful than that, with which the cruelties of man have crushed you. A victory achieved, not by your infuriated sons, hurried by their wrongs to vengeance ; but by the precious blood of Him who died, to wash away the moral pollution, that prepared you the victims of a relentless cupidity.

The Bible is now making its peaceful way among the savage tribes of our own country. To them we owe much. It is time for us to cancel these arrears of charity. Their civilization—their conversion to truth and righteousness, constitute strong claims upon our exertions. And to the prosecution of this work, all that is imperious in duty, and all that is delightful in spiritual illumination, most powerfully urge us. Christian ! would it rejoice your heart to convert the war whoop of death into an hallelujah of praise—to soften the ferocious features of the blood stained savage, into the mildness and gentleness of peace ? Point him then, to this sacred volume—teach him the victory here revealed over sin, and death, and hell ;—direct his benighted mind to the throne of God ;—spell out to him the awful terrors denounced against the guilty, and pour upon his astonished conception, the joyful assurance of mercy. Oh ! what a sight for angels and men, to behold the wild man of the woods, weeping over his sins. To see

him who gloried in revenge, who could smile amidst the shrieks of struggling innocence, at the foot of Calvary, imbibing the spirit of humanity—praying for his enemies—seeking with deep humiliation the pardon of his crimes, and raising the softest notes of praise to redeeming love!—This is no picture of fancy. We know the truth of Him, who hath declared that “the wilderness shall bud and blossom as the rose, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.”

Come up then with hearts full of love and gratitude. Stay not for cold calculations. They will freeze up the fountains of a pious liberality. But give freely—cast your bread upon the waters, and commit the issue to Him, who loveth a cheerful giver.

This Society looks to you for its existence. Its hopes of usefulness have their only source in your fostering care. Withhold your benevolence, and those hopes must die unaccomplished. Shall the heathen perish? Shall the poor, untutored Indian, in a christian country, die unpardoned? Shall he go down to the grave, a stranger to Jesus of Nazareth—when the mound that rises on his body, lies in sight of a land of Bibles?—These are solemn questions. They have not been suggested by any distrust of your charity. We feel assured, that you will strengthen and encourage us, by the pledge which we shall receive of your beneficence. It will plant no thorn in your dying pillow, that some poor wanderer has been reclaimed by your influence. It will enshroud death, in no new terrors, that the BIBLE has been multiplied through your instrumentality—that it has found its way to the cabins of the destitute, and shed

light and salvation around the abodes of wretchedness. And remember, that on that great and final morning, when the trump of God shall awake the sleeping dust of all generations, and call the world to Judgment—when the Heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll, and the earth shall have fled away—in that decisive hour, all the proud distinctions of wealth and fame will have perished forever. They will yield no solace to a naked soul, on its trial for eternity. They may fearfully blacken the clouds of vengeance. They may add a dreadful peal to the thunders of wrath. But if the developements of that day shall open to your view, this precious record, “I was hungry and ye fed me, I was sick and in prison, naked and destitute, and ye ministered unto me.” Oh! this will disarm those thunders, and through the circle of everlasting ages, swell the songs of your salvation. Live then for ETERNITY!—A treasure in the Heavens dearly bought, is prepared. The only way to secure it, is in the exercise of LOVE TO GOD AND LOVE TO MAN.

Officers of the Newark Bible Society,  
for the Year 1818.

Joseph C. Hornblower, Esq. *President.*

Rev. David Jones, *1st Vice-President.*

Theo. Frelinghuysen, Esq. *2d V. P.*

Mr. John C. Burnet, *3d V. President.*

William Tuttle, *Secretary.*

Moses Lyon, *Assistant Secretary.*

James Crane, *Treasurer.*

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" Aaron Ward,  
" John Lee.

**R E P O R T**  
Of the Directors of the Newark Bi-  
ble Society—made at its fourth  
Anniversary Meeting, June 25th  
1818.

THE NEWARK BIBLE SOCIETY has attained to its fourth Anniversary. It is an incumbent duty on the Managers, once a year, to report to the Society a brief sketch of their transactions. On this occasion, they are happy to state, that the Institution committed to their direction, has not ceased to flourish—and its concerns were never more hopeful than at the present time. Hitherto the smiles of Heaven have succeeded our humble endeavors to diffuse the Word of Life—and in proportion to the evidences of usefulness to our fellow men, have our hearts been cheered, and our labors made light. As the benevolent objects of the Society have become distinctly known, so has its influence extended—and its means of doing good augmented. Public beneficence has kept pace with its growth—tenderness and brotherly affection has characterized the Society—and the utmost cordiality and coincidence of sentiment, have distinguished all the deliberations of the Board.

The experience of the past, as well as of preceding years, amply test the utility of BIBLE INSTITUTIONS, and encourages us in our humble sphere, not to slacken our exertions in giving to the poor and the destitute the

inspired Volume, that blessed book which teaches man his duties in this life, and which opens to his view the scenes of a future existence. To place this book in the hands of those who would not otherwise possess it, is one of the strongest expressions of kindness to our fellow beings—and, while it feasts the cheerful giver, fails not to be an acceptable offering to the Father of all our temporal and spiritual mercies.

It is scarcely necessary for the Managers to remark that two years have elapsed since this Society became auxiliary to the AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY—a Society not less distinguished for its liberality than for its exertion—a Society which may truly be said, to be a national monument of christian labor and benevolence. Consequently *our* field of operation has been retrenched—*our* labors located to the Society's immediate vicinity. While we have supplied the wants of the needy among ourselves, our surplus funds have been consecrated to the use of the National Institution. And though much has been done by us in this place and its vicinity, we are sensible there still remains great room for the exercise of our charity and benevolence.

From the Report of the Treasurer of *this* Society, it appears that at the commencement of the year now expired, the unexpended funds, at that time amounted to \$9 59. That subsequently, at the delivery of the Anniversary Address, \$82 2 cents were collected; and 142 dollars have been received from annual subscriptions—which, including some small donations, &c. make the receipts of the Society to amount the present year, to \$256 37 cents. The disbursements during the same period,

amount to \$231 4 cents—leaving in the hands of the Treasurer, at the present time, only \$25 83 cents. The principal items of expenditure are \$118 46 cents paid to the Philadelphia Bible Society for Bibles furnished our order the preceding year to the Rev. Mr. Burr Baldwin in his Missionary tour in the Western country; and a Donation of 100 dollars to the American Bible Society.—The Managers notice with thankfulness, a number of private Donations from their fellow townsmen.

With the Librarian there were at the beginning of the last year, one hundred and seven Bibles.—Though the Managers have been sparing in their distribution, sixty eight out of that number have been disposed of—reducing our present stock, to only thirty-nine copies.

As the NEWARK BIBLE SOCIETY, as before remarked, is auxiliary to the AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY, it cannot be uninteresting, on the present occasion, to state, that this mighty engine to dethrone satan of his empire, has recently held its second Anniversary. The annual report, as yet, has not reached us. But from another source, we are enabled to state, that its prosperity is equal to the magnitude of its object—and, like the meridian sun in the firmament, diffuses its light and heat through every part of this Western Continent. The receipts into the treasury of the National institution, the past year, has been upwards of \$3,000 dollars—the number of auxiliary societies, attached to it, is 157—and during the year, it has issued 17,59½ Bibles—making an aggregate of 24,00½, since the formation of the Society.

The Managers conclude this brief Report to the Society, by saying, that there never was a time since the Reforma-

tion, if since the Apostolic age, when the christian world was so generally awake to the diffusion of christian knowledge, as at the present day. The hands of the pious, as well as many others, are widely extended in promulgating the Word of Life to perishing millions. Religious and benevolent objects need only to be undertaken, to be accomplished. And shall *we* cease our labors? Shall *we* say it is enough—we have done *all* that is required of *us*? Shall *we* withdraw our hand and stand still, while *others* are going forward with increased zeal and liberality? Forbid it Charity?—On the contrary, let us renew our efforts with redoubled ardor. Let us *strive* to extend the news of salvation—remembering “that the Gospel is intrusted to us, not for our sakes only, but for the benefit of mankind: What we *have* received, *that* we communicate. Religion, like other blessings, is to be diffused by human agency, and human benevolence. It has flowed to us through the zeal and labor of those who have gone before us—and *we* are bound to repay the debt, by spreading the Bible far and wide.” Let us then take courage. Let the object of our Association lie near our hearts, and be fervently remembered in our prayers.—Let us lay hold of the Scripture promise—for it said, “as the Earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are in it to spring forth, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before *all nations*; and the Earth *shall* be full of knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.”

By order of the Board.

WM. TUTTLE, *Secretary.*