

NO BIBLE FOR THE SLAVES.

In one of his recent lectures at Harwich, WILLIAM WELLS BROWN stated that, some years ago, repeated offers of a donation of *five thousand dollars* had been made to the American Bible Society by the American Anti-Slavery Society, towards supplying the colored population, bond and free, with the Bible; and those offers were declined. This statement was contradicted by the orthodox clergyman in Harwich, who seemed to regard Mr. Brown as wild in making it, but who was himself *Wild* in denying it.

Mr. Brown told the exact truth, as will be seen by the following extracts from the proceedings of the American Anti-Slavery Society, at its first anniversary in New York, in May, 1834:—

Resolved, That C. P. Grosvenor, Arnold Buffum, Lewis Tappan, Theodore S. Wright, Simon S. Jocelyn, Samuel J. May, E. M. P. Wells, and Beriah Green, be a Committee to consider the propriety of proposing to the American Bible Society to raise the sum of \$20,000, for the purpose of supplying every colored family in the United States with a Bible, on condition that this Society will pledge the sum of \$5000 towards that object, provided the American Bible Society will undertake to carry the measure into effect in *two years*.

The Committee on application to the American Bible Society reported verbally, that they had performed the service allotted to them, and met with an apparently favorable reception, the resolution they presented having been consigned to the Committee on Distribution.

The reception of the resolution was only 'apparently favorable'—nothing came of it. So, at the next annual meeting of the American A. S. Society, in May, 1835, renewed action was taken upon the subject, as follows, but with the same abortive result—the overture not being accepted by the Bible Society:—

Whereas, the American Bible Society regards itself as unable directly to offer the Holy Scriptures to our enslaved brethren; therefore,

Resolved, That we earnestly entreat that Society to request its auxiliaries to see to it, that every colored family in the United States be furnished with a copy of the Bible, and renewedly extend to that institution the offer of five thousand dollars towards the effort, on the condition proposed the last year, and that a committee of seven be appointed to communicate this proposal to the Managers of that institution at their present session.

This resolution called forth an animated discussion, but was at length passed by an unanimous vote.

Mr. Birney strongly advocated the measure as calculated to do great good, especially in regard to the States of Kentucky and Tennessee, where no legal restrictions exist against the distribution of the Scriptures. If the work could be done in those States, other States would follow the example. And who should do this work, or attempt it, but the American Bible Society? The assumption of it by a different Society might justly be called an attack upon the Bible Society, but the offer to bear a part of the expenses, surely, could not be so regarded.

The following persons were appointed by the chair to constitute that committee: Lewis Tappan, Rev. S. J. May, Ebenezer Dole, Thomas Wright, Rev. Duncan Dunbar, James G. Birney, and John Rankin.