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Boudinot, Elias, 1740-1821.

An Answer to the Objections of the Managers
of the Philadelphia Bible-Society.

Burlington, N. J., Allinson, [1815]. 14 pp.

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AN ANSWER

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TO THE

OBJECTIONS OF THE MANAGERS

OF THE

PHILADELPHIA BIBLE-SOCIETY,

AGAINST A

MEETING OF DELEGATES

FROM THE

BIBLE SOCIETIES IN THE UNION,

TO AGREE ON SOME PLAN TO DISSEMINATE THE BIBLE IN PARTS WITHOUT THE
UNITED STATES.

And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; there stood a man of Macedonia and prayed him saying, come
over into Macedonia and help us. Acts. xvi. & 9th.

BURLINGTON NEW-JERSEY

PRINTED BY DAVID ALLINSON.

AN ANSWER
TO THE OBJECTIONS &c.

AT the Annual Meeting of the New-Jersey Bible Society, at the city of Burlington, on the last Wednesday in August, 1814:---It was Resolved,

First. That in the opinion of this Society, it would greatly promote the accomplishment of the important purposes for which the Bible Societies in the United States have associated, if a union of them all, could be obtained by an annual or biennial meeting of delegates, to be appointed by the Societies in each State, at some central place to be agreed upon, to conduct the interests of the whole, where they respect the distribution of the Sacred Scriptures beyond the limits of particular States, or in case, where a Society in a State cannot furnish so many as are wanted.

Second. That the President of the Board of Managers be, and he is hereby authorized by this Society, to send a copy of the foregoing resolution to the Bible Societies in each State, with a circular letter directed to the President of each Society, requesting him to lay the said resolution before his Society as soon as possible, trusting that it will command their full and serious attention; and if agreeable to them, that they will approve the same, and appoint at least two delegates, either of whom may represent the Society, to meet at Philadelphia on the Monday preceding the third Wednesday in May next, at 3 o'Clock in the afternoon of the same day, with full powers to digest and form a plan for a well organized and constituted Body, to be called "*The General Association of the Bible Societies in the United States,*" or such other name or title as may be agreed upon, for the purpose of disseminating the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament; according to the approved version, without Note or Comment, in places beyond the limits of the United States; or within them, where the State Societies in any one of them, should be unable, from any circumstance whatever, to supply their wants, or where there should not be a Society in the State.

Third. That the President do request the several Societies to give as speedy notice as may be, to him, of their determination; who is hereby empowered and required, (whenever he shall receive the approbation and appointment of delegates, for the purposes aforesaid, from twenty Societies, and they shall have signified their consent to the measure,) to give publick notice thereof in the Newspapers, and that the meeting of the delegates will be had accordingly.

(A true Copy)

ELIAS BOUDINOT President.

A Copy of these Resolutions were sent to the Bible Society of Philadelphia, and to the other Societies in the Union.

The President of the Bible Society of New-Jersey, soon after received the following Letter from the President of the Bible Society of Philadelphia.

Philadelphia, Dec. 14. 1814.

Dear Sir,

With this, there will be delivered to you a communication from the Bible Society of Philadelphia, signed by me as their President, and addressed to you as President of the Bible Society of New-Jersey. This contained the Objections, which have been sent to the different Bible Societies in the United States. In addition to the Con-

tents of the said Instrument and the reference to the design intended in it, of *sending circular Copies to the other Societies* in the United States, I am instructed to inform you, that there will be a delay of those Copies for the space of three weeks, in order to give time for consequent communications of the Society over which you preside, should any be thought expedient.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your Humble Servant,
WILLIAM WHITE.

To this Letter the following Answer was sent.

Burlington, January. 1815.

Right Reverend, and dear Sir.

Your polite letter of the 14th Instant covering the address of the Managers of the Bible Society of Philadelphia, containing their objections to the resolutions of the Bible Society of New-Jersey inclosed in my circular of the 5th September last came safe to hand. Those objections have commanded that close attention, consideration, and reflection, that they were entitled to, from the respectable Source from which they came. The more so, as I consider myself a member for Life of that important and useful Society. I rejoice that "any difference that exists between our Societies, relates only to the means most proper for adoption". I have no doubt; of the most harmonious Union, as to the invaluable End of our pursuits.

While I admire the ingenuity, and labour spent on these objections, I cannot discover any part of them that applies to the substance of our resolutions, or the subject matter of my circular Letter. Indeed I have spent considerable time to find out, what is designed by them; my knowledge of your respectable Society will not suffer me to suppose that they are inimical to the Meeting of the Friends of Zion, to consult together for the welfare of immortal Souls.

However, I will with all convenient speed do my duty, by calling a Meeting of our Board of Managers, though at this inclement Season of the year; and lay your letter with its enclosure before them, and advise you of the result as soon as I can. But the Managers are so dispersed through the State, that it will be impracticable to accomplish this in the time you mention, and I can see no advantage, in your delaying the sending the objections as you propose, without ceremony. We cannot for a moment suppose, that Men of sound minds, and having proper zeal for the glory of God and the spread of the Gospel of his beloved Son, can be prevented from pursuing the object recommended by our Society, by objections so foreign from the purpose they have in view. Had the Delegates already met, and had a regular plan before them for consideration, and objections, applicable to such plan had been urged by your Delegates, all would have been perfectly right. But what is it, that the society of New-Jersey have proposed. "That thinking it their duty to use all the means in their power, to promote the great objects of their association, and conceiving that the greatest union of Christians of every profession in so desirable a cause promised most success in the undertaking, they take up the subject and after full consideration, determine, *that in their opinion*, it would greatly promote the accomplishment of the important purposes for which, Bible Societies have associated, if a union of them could be obtained, by the meeting of Delegates to conduct the common Interests of the whole, where they respect the distribution of the Sacred Scriptures beyond the limits of the United States, or where a society in a State cannot furnish as many as are wanted". They then direct their President to make this opinion known to their Sister Societies throughout the Union, and to request a meeting of Delegates with full powers to digest and establish a system for this purpose.

Are these objections then calculated to deny that this was the opinion of the New-Jersey Society? If not, do they go to shew, that there is any impropriety in Delegates conferring together and endeavouring to form a plan of greater usefulness in the Lords Vineyard, or to promote on a larger scale the knowledge of the Sacred Scriptures and the propagation of the words of eternal life? I cannot think they would undertake to ascertain beforehand, what course the Delegates when met would pursue for this great purpose, or whether they would agree on any other, than what is already established. It can then be only the opinion of our society, individually considered, that they mean to dispute. If so, this can answer no valuable End, and it will be scarcely worth while, to anticipate that which

