

the friends of Gospel truth and freedom:—

“If we turn our eyes towards the peninsula [of Spain] which groans under so many civil discords, we see the hand of the Lord preparing the way for his Gospel in the midst of party quarrels. So much has the general attention been fixed on the internal wars of Spain and Portugal, that it has scarcely been remarked that both these countries have just granted the right of religious liberty. They limit it, it is true, and try to restrain it; they tolerate this emancipation more than they encourage it; but no matter, it is the nature of religious liberty to be continually growing and extending. Behold, while the Spanish Cortes solemnly efface from their Constitution the article which prohibited the exercise of all religions save one, foreign Christians prepare the book which alone can propagate the doctrine of salvation. We have already communicated to you the efforts we have made along the frontiers of Spain to introduce the New Testament in that country. We have continued those efforts; but whatever interest they present, it is nothing in comparison with the work begun by the London Bible Society in the heart of Spain itself. While the principle of religious liberty is discussed and admitted at Madrid, the book containing the religious truth is printed at Barcelona. It is, we think, really taking possession of Spain in the name of Jesus Christ, planting his standard, and declaring by faith that the law of Gospel grace will soon be the law of that country. The Spaniards themselves have a confused idea of the benefits this Gospel offers them, and now begin to desire it; their public papers teem with questions relative to the propagation of the Bible; they ask themselves these, till now, unheard of questions:—‘Why would Spain be the only country without Bible Societies? Why should an eminently catholic nation remain isolated from the rest of Europe, instead of joining this magnificent enterprise, which she above all others stands in need of?’ ‘Liberty,’ add those writers, ‘will never be established in our country as long as its friends will consider faith as incompatible with it, and as long as they will declare a divorce between politics and religion. But on the contrary, if Bible Societies are established, and if efforts are made to spread the Bible by every means, drawing the Christian inspirations at the very source itself, the spirit of the Gospel will be better understood, and that awful system which makes people consider the ruin of believers as a progress, will be forsaken.’ You will undoubtedly approve us, gentlemen, for having thought that we also were not to remain inactive in such a crisis. Why

should we restrain ourselves to struggle along the frontiers against the laws on the press and against difficulties of all kinds, which though they do not weary the patience of those who help us in this part of our work yet oppose their labours, while there is nothing to hinder us from establishing the centre of our operations in the heart itself of Spain, and having printed by Spaniards the book which is to be read by Spaniards. A correspondence has been begun for that purpose between us and a friend residing at Barcelona. We intend to print in that city not only the New Testament, but also the *whole Bible*, if we are encouraged in that pursuit by the information we expect to receive, and which we anticipate will be very favorable. This enterprise—the most important of those we have as yet formed—will oblige us to make an urgent appeal for your concurrence. The American Bible Society has already made us some special gifts for Spain; we will beseech you, gentlemen, if our projects may be executed, ‘to go and do likewise.’—*Correspondence of the American Bible Society.*

The report further states the amount of labours accomplished during the year, in these gratifying terms:—

“The march of our Society, in the space of one year, has been so very rapid, that our hearts could not find thanks expressive enough for the blessings we have received. During the last year, 23,495 copies of the Holy Scriptures have been issued from our depository: that is to say, our distributions have been nearly one-half more considerable than last year; and they surpass three times and one-third those of the preceding year, and are eighteen times as numerous as those of our first year. This distribution of the sacred book is the result of our ordinary and regular reports, and we distinguish it from the others purposely on account of the sales we have made to the British and Foreign Bible Society, which has bought from us 37,000 copies of the Holy Scriptures printed with our forms. If we add this number to the above mentioned one, we shall have in all 60,496 copies of the Scriptures, of which 5,646 were Bibles and 54,850 New Testaments; or in other words, if we add together the copies which had been issued from our depository during the three first years of the existence of our Society, and double those numbers put together, it would require still more than 10,000 copies to attain the number of the holy books disposed of the last year.”