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either through its own Agencies, or aided by the Societies which have more or less directly sprung from it, the Bible Society occupies literally the whole world. But if it gain in conveying large and general impressions, such a survey necessarily fails in enumerating or emphasising details. There are a hundred matters of interest which appear only to a closer view and within a narrower field of vision, and these cannot be given here. But to one or two of them before closing, some, if the slightest, reference may be made.

First—there is the *work of the Bible-women in the Zenanas of India and the East.*

The chapter which, in the larger Report, is devoted to this subject is one of the most statistical and compendious, but at the same time one of the most strangely suggestive and impressive. From it we may learn that 473 women, already connected with various organizations, have been subsidised by the Bible Society in order that they may devote themselves to the ministry—surely one of the most beautiful and sisterly—of carrying to the listless inmates of the Zenanas that story, so certain to fascinate and inspire, of the love and the death of Christ. When they cannot read—and only too few can—the Bible-woman will read to them, and she will teach them—with what patience and painstaking she only understands—the difficult process of reading for themselves. Within the past year 1,455 native women have been thus taught: almost 30,000 have week by week been visited: 4,223 copies of the Scriptures have been given, and 14,425 copies sold. What statistics these are when translated into the real things—the new conceptions, the startling knowledge, the dawn of immeasurable hopes, the unthought-of interests, which they represent. For a thousand years that place of the Eastern home which should have been the happiest—the centre of the busiest and the gentlest concerns—has been the darkest and most uninspired. But in the kind ministry of these women, with the light in their own hearts and the Gospel in their hands, there has dawned a new and warmer season. One day the passage which was being read seemed to possess some strange and unusual power. As she listened the Hindu wife became absorbed: the dark eyes glowed—a new light shone out of them:—“*A woman wrote that!*” she exclaimed at last, “*no one but a woman could know what you say.*” But it was the story of the Magdalene who bathed our Lord's feet with her tears, and the words were those of the Son of God.

There is another subject entirely different, but with a peculiar interest of its own—it is *the relation in which the Bible Society stands to the various Missionary Societies at work in the home or the foreign field.*

During the past year there have been applications to the Bible Committee from many of these Societies for supplies of Scripture indispensable to mission work; and there have been few more welcome and more cordial letters received than those which acknowledge the grants when made. And these expressions of obligation form year to year a kind of annual supplement to detailed statements of indebtedness and explanations of mutual