

REPORT.

ON entering upon the fulfilment of their annual duty, which always requires a retrospect of the past, your Committee feel that, on this occasion, they have more than usual cause to lift their hearts in gratitude and praise to God. The year that is gone has indeed been uncommonly fruitful in every thing mournful—every thing that bears testimony to the fact that the earth lies under a curse—awful disasters by sea, and melancholy catastrophes by land—the sweeping pestilence, and devastating war. But it has also been fruitful in demonstrations of God's love to man, and of His mindfulness of those promises in His Word which speak of future blessedness to the earth. Of all these demonstrations none, perhaps, are so conspicuous as those which the history of the Bible Society, during the past year, can record. These point to two ends—the conversion and salvation of individual sinners, and the amelioration of the nations in general. It is a fact in God's providence, that, while the Bible Society was formed by its first projectors, and is still continued by its present supporters, for the simple unmixed purpose of giving the Bible, as the book of God, to all who stand in need of it in any part of the world, it has been employed by Him, who directs all things for His own glory, as an instrument to promote the fulfilment of His great purposes of mercy towards His people and towards the world in general. The former we see accomplished by the work of Colportage—the latter by the general diffusion of the Bible among the nations. While in the various nations of Europe to which the Bible has access, as well as many parts of Asia, Africa and America, we see one here and another there plucked as brands from the burning, by means of the simple reading of a Bible procured from the hands of a Colporteur, and led thereby to