

gious freedom, and the opening of the way for the diffusion of Christian knowledge; millions may now be furnished with Bibles from whom hitherto this key of knowledge has been kept back, or taken away by those who ruled over them.

Another highly important event, as indicative of the providential hand of God fulfilling the predictions of His own Word, in the late decree of the Sultan of Turkey, the head of the Mahomedan faith, viz: that Christians are now eligible in his dominions, to the highest offices of the state. That a surprising change has come over this once formidable anti-Christian power! Is not this a blow at the root of Mahomedanism, which was first propagated by the sword, and whose strength lies in its connexion with the state, and the favour of the secular arm! But a few years since and it was death by Law for a Musselman to turn Christian; now he may do so and be exalted to the highest offices of the state. There can be no doubt of the moral effect of this. Musselmen may now be accessible to Christian effort, and the Koran, we humbly hope, will be succeeded by the Bible. Popery and Mahomedanism were contemporary in their rise, may we not expect them to be so in their fall?

Your Committee have thus briefly adverted to these events as connected with Christian duty. A dispensation of the word of God is committed to us, the way is being opened, the times are prosperous, the example of our Christian fathers and brethren in Britain and America animates us, the successful and steady progress of the Bible cause cheers us on to the work. Let us emulate the zeal of those who have gone before us, as also of those who are nobly carrying forward what our fathers have begun. It is true our institutions are but in their infancy, our settlements comparatively new, our position remote, our means scanty, and our resources crippled by the commercial embarrassments under which the finances of our Province have been diminished during the past year, yet we are highly favoured by Providence in the possession of a productive soil, healthy climate, religious freedom, a general competency, at least, in the agricultural districts, all affording appliances which if wisely directed are adequate to the accomplishment of much good.

It is with much pleasure that your Committee have received the most favourable reports of the progress of the Bible cause by means of the Parent Society in England, as also its Sister Institution in the United States. Some particulars of which will be mentioned presently.

Your Committee in the early part of the Summer, being impressed with the importance of meeting the extraordinary providential opening recently made for a more extensive circulation of the Scriptures in France and Italy, addressed circulars to the Ministers of several Churches in the western part of this Province, respectfully calling on them to take up collections in aid of the special efforts now being made in behalf of those countries. This call has been responded to by a goodly number, and the sum of £37 14s. 5d. raised and applied for that purpose; the particulars of which may be seen in the proper place of the Report.

The operations of your Society for the past year being closed, your Committee would view them as affording encouragement for persever-