

"The Rev. C. F. A. Steinkopff, Minister of the German Lutheran Church in the Savoy, and one of the Society's present Secretaries, voluntarily tendered his services to promote the design, in the course of a journey which he was about to make to the Continent of Europe. His offer was thankfully accepted, and he was accordingly requested to inquire particularly into the want of the Scriptures in such places as he should have occasion to visit. Similar inquiries were directed to be promoted in Ireland, and in other parts of the United Kingdom; and the following queries relating to the same object were addressed to the country at large, through the medium of certain Periodical Publications:—

"1. Can the poor in your neighbourhood generally read?"

"2. To what extent are they furnished with the Holy Scriptures?"

"3. Do they discover a solicitude to read them?"

"4. What has been done towards supplying this want?"

"5. Are there persons in your neighbourhood willing further to encourage the distribution of the Holy Scriptures in our own and in foreign lands?"

"These transactions took place antecedently to the close of May, 1803; and in the course of that month, Mr. Hughes presented an impression of an Essay, prepared in compliance with the wishes expressed at a primary Meeting, under the title of 'The Excellence of the Holy Scriptures an Argument for their more General Dispersion.' In this Essay, which may be regarded as containing the rudiments of the future Society, the author expatiates on the transcendent excellence of the Holy Scriptures, enumerates the different Religious Societies more or less concerned in promoting their circulation, and describes the limitations of their respective constitutions, and their consequent

inadequacy to the work of a general distribution. Mr. Hughes then represents the importance of an association of Christians at large, with a view exclusively to the circulation of the Holy Scriptures; and points out a variety of advantages, both direct and collateral, which might be expected to result from the operations of such an Institution.*

(To be continued.)

To the Editor of the Bible Advocate.

DEAR SIR,—The following extract is the conclusion of an article in PHILIP'S *Young Man's Closet Library*, entitled 'Manly Realizations of Christ in the Bible.' It is worthy to be written in letters of gold; and I trust you will give it a place in the columns of the *Advocate*; and that it may be written on the hearts of all who read it, by the influence of the Holy Spirit, is the fervent prayer of, your's respectfully, W. G.

"Since, then, all scriptural light has sprung from the gift of eternal life in Christ, how shameful and sinful is it to trifle with the light of the gospel. This is a crime of far greater magnitude and malignity than appears by saying, of the careless, they do not read their Bibles, nor reflect upon the word of God. This would, indeed, be bad enough, whatever the Bible contained. This is nothing, compared with their neglect; they are trifling, not so much with eternal law as with eternal life; not so directly with Divine authority as with infinite love. You may imagine that they are only evading duties not convenient at present; only postponing things not agreeable. Deluded judges! They are pouring contempt upon the most glorious salvation which the united Godhead could devise; risking souls, which all heaven rushed to save; trifling with eternal life. What a

* Owen's History of the Bible Society.