

in their own tongue wherein they were born, in these various languages, the wonderful works of God. I believe that when the Oriental Congress met in this great city some few years ago, and visited the Bible Society's house in Queen Victoria-street, and when they saw these various versions upon the shelves, they did not fail to acknowledge that, though this is a Christian and benevolent, not a literary society, yet it had done more, even in the interests of philology, than any literary society in the world, all its energies being expended in the production of one glorious Book, God's precious Word."

A TRIP TO JAVA.

A few extracts from a letter from Mr. Haffenden, the Society's Agent for Malaysia :—

"Since I last wrote you I have been to Java and back again. I had intended to have written to you while in Java, but my time there was necessarily so short, and at the same time so fully occupied, that I really had not time; and I am glad that I did not do so, as I think that what I am able to tell you now will be more reliable than if I had given you my impressions of the place and of the work to be done as they at first came to me.

"I had been long asking the Lord to show me the best place to which to make my first trip, and I had once or twice, or perhaps oftener, mentioned in my letters my thoughts and difficulties on this subject. But now, on my return, I feel that truly I have been led of the Lord to the very best place in the whole of Malaysia in which to gain the information I require before starting off on more extensive journeys. * * * *

"The work to be done in Java, and in fact in the whole of Netherlands India, is immense, and as yet the ground is almost unbroken as far as Bible work goes. In order to be able to estimate the possibilities of work in and round Batavia itself, I took with me a small supply of Chinese and Malay Scriptures, and in three days, in the bazaars in Depök and Beutenzorg, I sold 100 copies of Malay and Chinese Scriptures, spending about two to three hours each day in the work. One of the days in Beutenzorg, with the assistance of my eldest boy, whom I took with me to Java, I sold fifty-four copies to Chinese and Malays, principally the former, the people crowding round me everywhere to buy and to hear the story of the cross, and I should have been able to dispose of hundreds of copies more had I been able to stay there a few days. I find it is a good plan to have two persons at work, for I did best in this instance where I spoke, and my little son (who is quite up to the work, and rejoices in being allowed to help) sold. It appears to me that the Chinese population of Java are of a better class than those of Singapore, and the proportion of readers is much larger. Then there is a large population of country-born Chinese, who are almost all able to read Malay in Roman characters, and who are willing to buy, which the same class here hardly cares to do. Then, again, the Malays, Javanese, and Sundanese, do not appear to me to be nearly as strict Mahometans as the Malays here in Singapore, and thus there is more chance of getting at them. * * *

"It will be interesting to you, perhaps, to have an account of the population of Java, as giving you some idea of the work that, it appears to me, now lies open to us. Dutch, in Batavia alone, 7,211; Dutch in all Java, 33,708; natives in all Java, 19,015,291, of which about 3,000,000 are Javanese, 8,000,000 are Sundanese, and 3,000,000 are Malays; Chinese in all Java, 206,051; Arabs in all Java, 10,027; other nationalities, 3,079. Then of native Christians there are in Java alone about 7,720, all Protestants, and in the remainder of the Dutch possessions, principally, of course, in Amboyna and the north part of the Celebes, there are 254,455 Christians, of whom more than two-thirds are Protestants, and the remainder Roman Catholics. So that alone, amongst the native nominal Christian populations, there is a very large work to be done."—*British & Foreign Bible Society Reporter for August.*