

allowance for wear and tear, loss and destruction, that there remained now in England at least eight millions of Bibles and Testaments issued by the Bible Society. He need not say there were many issued from other sources. But these eight millions had given two for every family, and one perhaps for every two persons in England capable of reading them. Not that they were so equally distributed. So far from this being the case, in a late visitation (by the agents of the Society) in three of the Bible Society districts, 1712 families were found to be without either Bible or Testament. But although found destitute, we may be assured they were not left destitute; and it may be added, that the very class still most destitute is that which has received the largest succour from the Bible Society, and whose state would now have been deplorable indeed without it.

2. Let us look at Ireland. The Hibernian Bible Society was formed in 1806. At that time it is stated, that irrespective of the city of Dublin, there were only twelve towns in Ireland in which Bibles and Testaments could be purchased. The Hibernian Society is now celebrating its Jubilee Year, and what has it done? It has 511 Auxiliaries, each of which has its depository for the sale of the Holy Scriptures; and it sends its colporteurs and agents throughout the country. Up to this time nearly two and a half million copies have been issued, and of these over eighty-four thousand in the Irish language.

3. Cast your eye on Turkey. When the Bible Society was formed probably not a single Bible could be purchased in that country. Twenty-five years after there was to be found in Constantinople a Bible Depository in a little room of a dark inn in a retired quarter; no outward sign pointing it out to the passer by, and open only once a week. Now the depository occupies three rooms in the centre and most public street of Constantinople, with a broad sign board in six different languages. There is an active and increasing demand, and even the Turks themselves are purchasers. There are depots of the Scriptures moreover in all the large towns and many of the villages of the empire.

4. Let us come to this side of the Atlantic, and look at the United States. The American Bible Society was not formed until some years after the British and Foreign; but it has up to this time issued ten millions copies, and gathers from all parts of the Union an income not very far short of one hundred thousand pounds currency. Its income last year was 394,000 dollars, and its issue 862,000 copies. Thus the three Societies, which have been named, acting on the same principle, have sent forth to the world forty two millions and a half of Bibles and Testaments. A mighty and a memorable work!

The President concluded by saying, that when he looked round on the several Reverend pastors by whom he was surrounded; when he looked at the mingled congregation before him assembled in this large and happy confederacy, and remembered how many such gatherings there annually were in so many places, he could not but regard the Bible Society more and more as a great bulwark of the Reformation; and he trusted all its members would support the great principle that "Holy Scripture containeth all things necessary to salvation"—that the Bible is the only rule of Faith, and that it is the right and the duty of every one who could, to possess and to read it.

The Rev. Mr. ROBINSON next read the ninety-sixth Psalm; after which the Secretary, Dr. PATERSON, read an Abstract of the Report. The following Resolutions were then moved