

the privilege of meeting him several times, and knows that he by no means lost his interest in this country where he had spent the strength of his years. Whilst in Canada he not only felt a warm interest in this Society, of which he was a Vice-President from the year 1852, but took an active part in its management. Though very decided in his attachment to the principles of the Presbyterian Church, he was a Catholic-spirited and large-hearted Christian, taking a lively interest in everything which affected the intellectual, moral, or spiritual welfare of the people. He was always an unflinching opponent of slavery, and a generous and kind friend to the African race, many of whom in Canada have good reason to remember his practical sympathy. Though making his home in London during the last few years of his life, he travelled about a great deal for a man of his age; and even visited Palestine and Egypt. Wherever he went he was always ready to speak on behalf of the Bible Society, and we are sure that the members of this Society will long hold the memory of the Rev. Dr. Willis in much respect, and will not forget to sympathise with his widow in her sore bereavement, though she is separated from us by the waves of the Atlantic.

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#### EXTRACTS FROM THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY'S REPORT.

**FUNDS.**—In the Report for 1876, it was stated that, if an aggregate of ten years be taken, it will be found that the Society has received £1,919,000 and spent £1,915,000, shewing a difference of only £4,000 for the entire period. The same close correspondence has not been maintained during the past three years. In 1876-7, the excess of expenditure over receipts was £5,000, the following year it was £15,000, and this year it threatened to be even greater. Finding that the reserve fund had been diminished to a sum representing barely one-third of the current engagements of the Society, and that in the present state of the country a large permanent increase of revenue was not to be expected, your Committee felt it to be their duty to take two steps.

The first of these was to correspond with their principal foreign Agents and inquire what saving could be effected, over and above that which would naturally come with the termination of special efforts like those connected with the Russo-Turkish war and the Paris Exhibition. Proposals were discussed for reducing the number of colporteurs and of depots; but when it was found that this would mean nothing short of the extinction of evangelical work in many parts of Europe, they were set aside in favour of an alternative proposal for slightly raising the selling prices of some of the Society's foreign Scriptures. The details are still under consideration, and it is hoped that, without doing much injury to peoples at present suffering under much distress, some economy may be effected under this head.

The other step taken by your Committee was to lay frankly before their friends the position of their finances and their need of enlarged help. A Special Appeal was accordingly issued at the New Year, not without misgiving, for it was known that in the case of many generous supporters, claims had increased, while the ability to give had diminished. Considering these circumstances, your Committee regard the response that has been made as most liberal. Nor has sympathy come from the British Empire alone. Christian friends in Denmark, Holland, and other countries have sent, through your