

trance of that Word which giveth light" and life to millions of perishing souls—they hear unconcerned. Come to them with tidings of the discovery of some great African river which can be made the channel for commerce and civilization to the heart of a continent—interest is awakened at once. Bid them behold the mightiest stream of blessing humanity can know, brought in world-wide flow to every man's door—unmoved they behold the spectacle. Remind them that *their* nation has led the world in striking the chains off fettered limbs—how you touch the chord of their quick sympathies, and kindle the fires of pride and patriotic exultation! Yet on the going forth of a mightier deliverance than ever was purchased by British gold, or won by American steel, they gaze with chill indifference.

Oh! my friends, from my soul I pity the so-called Christian who, unconcerned, can hear that, in his own lifetime perchance, hundreds of millions of his fellows have had the life-giving Word placed in their reach—who can learn that in one hundred and sixty tongues in which it was before unknown the Gospel of Jesus is given to the perishing, without extending the warm sympathy of the heart, and the free and ready aid of the hand, to the Society which has been instrumental in compassing a work so glorious.

And as its widespread work of translating, printing and circulating the Word in every various dialect and tongue which has become the vehicle of Christian teaching, gives the Society a claim upon the sympathy of every Christian man, so likewise upon the support of every pure Christian church; because the assistance which it has thus afforded to the foreign missionary work of each has been of vital importance. For at the very base of all our missionary work lies the Holy Bible. And herein we have perhaps the most marked difference between Protestant and Romish missions. The latter are designed to be prosecuted with the least possible use of the inspired volume. But the Protestant missionary's first effort is to master the language of the people to whom he is sent, not only that he may be able to preach, but that he may render the Scriptures at once, either in whole or in part, into their tongue. His version completed, he sends it home to the British and Foreign Bible Society; and, no matter what his denomination, or what the unknown, uncouth, barbaric character in which he writes, types are punched and cast, the work is printed and bound, and numbers of copies gratuitously given to the missionary for use in his distant work. There is not an evangelical British church represented in this great congregation whose missionary work has not, in this respect, been mainly if not entirely dependent upon the freely rendered aid of the Bible Society—not one whose Societies for Foreign Missions have not, during the past year, received free grants of the Scriptures in various tongues for their work. I find by referring to the latest Report of the Bible Society that Presbyterian missions have been thus aided. Grants have been made, among others, to the British Jews' Society and to the London Jews' Society, to the London Missionary Society (Congregational), to the Central African Mission, to the Baptist Missionary Society, to the Wesleyan Missionary Society, to the Moravian Missionary Society, to the Church Missionary Society and the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, to the South American Missionary Society, and to the French and *Canadian* Missionary Societies.

Acting thus, in Scripturic phrase, as "a nursing mother" to the evangelistic work of the various churches, she has established a claim upon all which no church, and we would hope no churchman, would deny—a claim which has been recognised by thousands conspicuous for their piety, learning, and rank in every branch of the evangelical church. In our own communion, the Archbishop of Canterbury and nearly thirty of his suffragan bishops, by their countenance and willing support, testify their sense of the value of the Bible Society to the church of which they are members, and to the world at large.

But though none need in these days be ignorant of them, many in the various churches seem to ignore the claims which the Bible Society has upon their