

be done, much more than has hitherto even been attempted, towards diffusing the benign and sanctifying influences of Christianity over our Indian possessions and dependencies; that the Bible, which has done so much for Britain, is one of the great means of blessing needed for India; and whatever new and vigorous agencies may be called into operation, the Bible must occupy the prominent and foremost place. This necessarily casts an increased responsibility on the Bible Society: that responsibility the committee desire fully and solemnly to recognise." After some further remarks, the report proceeds to say—"And above all, if He who has the hearts of all men in his hands, should in great mercy dispose the native mind at large to give a welcome to Christian instruction, there will be an opening for the Scriptures both in the Asiatic and European languages to an unprecedented extent, of which it is of the utmost importance that this Society should be fully prepared to take every advantage." The committee of the Parent Society recommend, as the result of their careful deliberation, the raising of a *special Bible fund for India*. And may we not, my Christian friends, the committee of this humble Auxiliary, venture to assure them of our co-operation in this, as was done in regard to the Chinese New Testament and Jubilee Funds?

But all our interest must not be absorbed by one quarter of the world. While reflecting on the impression which recent events have made on the public mind in England with regard to Asia, it is a most gratifying fact that the hopes awakened by Dr. Livingstone's journey through Africa, have everywhere been welcomed. That truly christian and intrepid missionary, in his visits to different parts of England and Scotland, has met with the most encouraging reception. Although the commercial disasters, as well as the Indian atrocities engaged general attention, he always found a numerous, friendly, almost enthusiastic audience. He has secured too, the prompt and powerful aid of the Government in furtherance of his plans. Metaphorically speaking, the great iron gate of Africa seems opening to us of its own accord, after the shackles of slavery have been loosed, as the iron gate at Jerusalem opened to Saint Peter, after the heavenly messenger had wakened him in his prison, and his chains had fallen from his hands.

Many of you will no doubt remember, that, some time ago, after the Bible had been first carried to the inhabitants of the Fee-jee Islands, they put these questions to the missionary so difficult to answer to their satisfaction—*How long have you had this Book?—Why did you not bring it to us before?* Dr. Livingstone had to answer the like solemn inquiry from the African chief, who was, I believe, his first real convert to Christianity. "He asked me if my forefathers knew of a future judgment. I replied in the affirmative, and began to describe to him the scene of 'the great white throne and Him who shall sit on it, from whose face the heaven and the earth shall flee away. He said—You startle me; these words make all my bones to shake; I have no more strength in me; but my forefathers were living at the same time yours were, and how is it they did not send them word about these terrible things sooner? They all passed away into darkness without knowing whither they were going." Dr. Livingstone could only answer him by pointing out the Geographical difficulties, and drawing his attention to the better prospects of the future.