

SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

On Wednesday, May the 7th, the Annual Meeting of this Society was held at Exeter Hall.

The Right Hon. the EARL OF SHAFTESBURY, K. G., President, in the chair.

The Rev. CHARLES JACKSON opened the Meeting by reading part of the 17th chapter of St. John's Gospel, and engaged in prayer.

The Rev. CHARLES E. B. REED, read an abstract of the Report of the Society's proceedings during the past year, from which it appeared that the free income of the Society for the year ending 31st March, 1879, has amounted to £96,426. 11s. 5d., whilst the sum received for Scriptures sold, both at home and abroad, has reached £106,168. 15s. 10d., which, with £136. 10s. received on account of a Special Fund for Indian Colportage, £899. 2s. 4d. for work at the Paris Exhibition, and £10,180. 3s. 8d., in response to the Committee's Special Appeal, makes a total of £213,811. 3s. 3d.

The Expenditure has amounted to £223,476. 15s. 2d., being £4,389. 2s. 11d. less than last year.

The Issues of the Society for the year are as follows :—

From the Depot at home 1,415,214 } 3,340,995 copies of Bibles.

From Depots abroad . . 1,925,781 } Testaments and Portions.

The total Issues of the Society from its commencement now amount to 85,388,057 copies.

In the absence of the ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, who was to have moved the adoption of the Report, but was kept away by affliction, the BISHOP OF GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL did so. After reference to some of the most interesting items of the Report, he spoke of the immense work still before the Society, particularly in the way of translation; he pointed out some of the great difficulties with which translators had to cope, spoke of the honour due to such men as the brave Moffat, and encouraged the Society to go on with the help of these men in giving to all peoples the Word of the Lord, which endureth for ever.

The Hon. JOHN WELSH (United States Minister), seconded the resolution.

The Rev. Canon TRISTRAM said; My Lord, the resolution which has been placed in my hands is as follows :—

“That this meeting desires to acknowledge with devout gratitude the goodness of God in the blessing which has rested upon the Society's labours during the past year, and appeals to all to whom God's Word is precious as for enlarged sympathy and support in the prosecution of its important work.”

My Lord: It might appear to a somewhat thoughtless listener to that interesting report, not only that we had cause to thank God for the work that had been done but that the work was done. It might have seemed, as we were carried from Russian armies to African shores, and thence to newly-opened empires—Japan and China—and thence to the isles of the sea, that the whole world had been ransacked by the Bible Society, and that it might sit down, like Alexander, because it had no more worlds to conquer. But when we look closer into the matter, it seems to me that in this age, in which the great battle against Christianity is levelled against the Bible itself, and against the inspiration of the Bible as God's immutable Word, the work of the Bible Society had hardly begun. It seems to me that in many countries the Bible Society, although it is commonly said to be the missionary's tool,