

been effected by individuals. It required vast means and great excitement, both of which it finds in the bosom of this Society. The Bible has been translated into almost every tongue; and all nations and languages are becoming interested in its favour. It has indeed been said, that to send the Bible alone, is of little use; for without preaching, the world will never be converted. This is certainly true; because our Lord commanded his disciples to go into all nations and preach the Gospel to every creature; but though the Bible alone, cannot convert nations, it may be of infinite advantage; and even to the living Missionary, how beneficial is it to find in every Pagan house that he enters, a Bible, and many impressions made by its perusal in favour of what he is going to teach. Both together are to convert the nations; but God by his efficacy may call some by his word alone; and this has been done in the case of two Priests of Budha, who found some copies of the Scriptures which had been translated by the Society into the Cingalese, and were so much astonished and affected that they forsook their superstition, and prevailed with Sir Alexander Johnson to bring them to England, where they might be more perfectly instructed in the truths of revelation. They have been baptised according to the rites of the Church of England, admitted to the Sacrament, and are preparing to return to Ceylon, to preach the Gospel. Now had not the Scriptures been translated and sent to Ceylon by the Society, these two men had remained heathens, but now they may be most advantageously employed in converting their countrymen, as may be reasonably hoped from their excellent talents and extensive influence.

“Nor is it possible that a book, which its very enemies have been compelled from its excellence to call divine, the only book necessary for a Christian, and the most useful of all even to persons not of that belief—a book which requires only to be attentively read to convey into the soul the love of its Author and the will of fulfilling his precepts, can be of no use. “Never” says Ruosseau, “did virtue speak a language so sweet—never did external wisdom express itself with such energy and simplicity. There is no quitting the perusal without feeling oneself a better man than he was.” “If any one,” says Jenyns, “doubt of the superiority and excellence of this religion beyond all that were ever taught before, let him read attentively those incomparable writings by which it has been handed down