

3080 copies. Such, however, has been its steady yearly growth, that the total circulation now amounts to 1,028,968 copies.

The receipts of the year have been 17,755 rupees=1775*l*.

Grants have been made to this Auxiliary to the following extent:—725 Bibles and 275 Testaments in English; 51 Bibles and 49 Testaments in other languages; 1000 reams of printing paper; a supply of binding materials to the value of 57*l*. 9*s*. 9*d*.; 200*l*. towards printing an edition of the Canarese New Testament, and 600*l*. towards general operations.

BOMBAY.—The issues do not wear so favourable an aspect as last year; but the Report introduces one circumstance, which sufficiently accounts for the disparity.

“The total issues from the Depository, during the past year, amount to 9376, showing a decrease of 4030 copies.

“The chief cause assignable for this very large decrease in the issues is the Jubilee distribution of Scriptures to Missions, which chiefly fell under the issues of 1855. It was therefore to be expected that the issues of the year immediately following these extraordinary issues of Scriptures would be very considerably diminished; but the Committee are hopeful that they will again rapidly increase through the new channels now in course of being opened throughout the Presidency.

“The sales of Scriptures during the past year amount to 2230, exceeding those of 1855 by 875: the total grants during the year, including the Reports of the Society, amount to 4790; issues, to a considerable extent, unaccounted for, up to the close of the year, 2246.”

To enable the Committee of the Bombay Auxiliary to carry on their operations with unimpaired vigour, the Parent Society has placed at their disposal, 1574 Bibles and 644 Testaments in various languages, 200 reams of printing paper, and materials for binding 5000 Marathi Bibles.

CEYLON.—COLOMBO.—The issues of the year in Singhalese and Indo-Portuguese Scriptures amounted to 3342 copies.

His Excellency, the Governor of the island, has become the patron of the Auxiliary, and thus kindly afforded his sanction to the Christian operations it conducts.

With a view of encouraging the increased efforts of this Auxiliary, grants have been made, viz.—100 reams of printing paper; 2100 demy mill-boards, and 105*l*. in aid of general operations.

CHINA.—In directing attention to China, the Committee would, in the first instance, offer a tribute of respect to the memory and labours of the Rev. Dr. Medhurst. This eminent Missionary, whose name stands so prominently associated with efforts for the evangelization of China, expired shortly after he landed in his native country, in February last.

During the past year there has been much effected by Bible distribution in China, to awaken gratitude to God. There have not been wanting striking instances of the happy results of the perusal of the Scriptures.

SHANGHAI.—The Rev. W. Muirhead has been appointed Secretary in place of the lamented Dr. Medhurst.

The various letters received in the course of the year testify to the increasing importance and success of colportage. The distribution of Scriptures is regulated in such way as to make the Sacred Volume both respected and valued.

HONG KONG.—The Rev. Dr. Legge bears testimony to the continued blessing that accompanies the circulation of the Scriptures, and the exemplary consistency and zeal of the native Colporteurs who are employed in the work.

In a letter written January 14, Dr. Legge expresses his fears that the labours of the Colporteurs will be effectually checked by the misunderstanding which has sprung up between the English and Chinese.

CANTON.—The Rev. Mr. Beach having become Missionary Chaplain at Macao, the office of Corresponding Secretary is now filled by the Rev. J. Cox.

In order to sustain the colportage operations with vigour, a fresh edition of 10,000 Testaments has been undertaken.

Writing just after hostilities had broken out, Mr. Cox states—

“Our Colporteurs would now be dispersing abroad your bounty among this people, both far and near, but the siege has put a stop to all our operations, both in printing and distributing. We had received 500 copies of the edition when the British men-of-war advanced on Canton.

AUSTRALIA.—The Committee last year gave some account of the proceedings of the two gentlemen, the Rev. M. H. Becher and T. Charles, Esq., who were deputed to visit the Australian colonies on behalf of the Society. Shortly after the Annual Meeting Mr. Charles landed in this country, having been compelled most reluctantly to relinquish his labours by an alarming failure of health. Upon the Rev. Mr. Becher, therefore, devolved the whole responsibility of completing the visitation, and that gentleman, having carried out the plans entrusted to him, returned to England at the close of last year.

Mr. Becher reports—

“I have been permitted to attend 107 Public Meetings, and form 88 new Societies in places not previously occupied. Of these Meetings, 60 were held by your Agents conjointly in Tasmania and part of New South Wales, from February to December 1855; and 47 were attended by me alone, in January to August 1856, in the remaining

portion of New and South Australia, compelled to Mission.”

The Colporteurs, Meetings, and 2153*l*. 8*s*. 3*d*. was in the shape of

New South Wales Auxiliary has received a contribution to the sum 50*l*. is Parramatta the circulation of the Sea Islands. has been received Fund, and 9

The Report “During the year, 1000 copies of the Bible and Testament were distributed to 4337. 10*s*. 8*d*. and Associates and Testaments 5127. 17*s*. 2*d*. The Colporteurs have been producing an entire sale of three sources 10,321 Bibles and 1057 Testaments, the sum of 1057*l*. 10*s*. 8*d*. sales of the

“The subscription of the year of the Society and the Committee and Associates making, with the annual Meetings, an excess of 1000.”

“Since the year of the Testament, the sales towards the year increased to 1000.”

New Zealand entire Bible has been happily completed.

The Annual Meeting 121*l*. 13*s*.

SOUTH-SOUTH.—The South-South Fejeean Islands being carried under the Calvert and the Committee to the Visitation Agents to consider

South-South stated in

“The General of the year has been 2076*l*. all 4214*l*. been 673*l*. 284*l*. 12*s*. 384*l*. 10*s*. “The