

# THE PRESBYTERIAN RECORD

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### The Bible.

**T**HROUGH the courtesy of its secretariat, the seventy-ninth report of THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY is before us. With its lists of acknowledgements and other appendices it forms a portly volume of nearly five hundred pages, containing a condensed record of a vast amount of work and administrative ability. The maps with which it is illustrated are of great service in helping the reader to understand and appreciate the scope of the Society's operations. The income of the Society from all sources for last year was £210,600 equal to about \$1,052,500, an income of more than \$50,000 over the previous year's receipts. The expenditure has more than kept pace with this receipts. This is due to the extension of the work in India, China, Malaysia, North Africa and other countries. The issues from the Bible House in London have amounted to 1,542,413 copies, and from depots abroad to 1,422,223, making a total of 2,964,636 copies, or about 26,091 more than in the previous year. The sales show a decided increase in the number of complete Bibles and New Testaments as compared with Portions. The issues of the Society from its commencement now reach a total of 96,917,629 copies, and the total expenditure from the commencement is upwards of \$46,000,000. In and near London there are 130 depositories for the sale of the Bible, and in every civilized country—where the sun shines on, excepting the United States—which is supplied by its own Society,

there are Bible Houses in connection with this venerable society. A very large number of copies are also distributed by colporteurs, no less than 550 persons being thus employed by the Society in its various fields; and these are no mere book-pedlars, they are for the most part men of superior intelligence and well educated, actuated by higher than mercenary motives. They are evangelists, many of them effective preachers. In short they are itinerant missionaries, exposed to much opposition, having many trials and difficulties to encounter, and requiring no small moral courage, tact, presence of mind, a firm belief in the truth of the Gospel message, and reliance on God's help. Going from place to place, sowing through all lands the imperishable seed of the Kingdom, teaching and exhorting, it is impossible to estimate the amount of good done by the colporteur. The Bible Society, it is easy to see, represents the commissariat of the missionary army. Every fresh advance that is made, every new mission that is planted, means fresh demands upon that Society whose happy province it is to accompany and keep step with the missionaries and to furnish the chief weapon of their warfare. The translation, printing, or distribution of the whole or part of the Bible has been promoted by this Society in 255 languages or dialects. The past year is memorable as that in which the Society was able for the first time to offer a complete Bible to the people throughout the Russian Empire and in their mother tongue. It is stated in the report that a De Sacy Bible, circulated by this Society, was the first means of bringing Pastor Chiniquy to the light of the knowledge of Christ. On the occasion of his recent visit to the Bible House in London, at his request the committee readily granted him, for the use of