

of God, to infuse a similar spirit of active benevolence. As it regards the gratuitous distribution of the Holy Scriptures among the poor of our own neighbourhood, every application has been readily listened to, in order to relief, and individuals have been sought out, as fit objects of this divine bounty, even where personal application has not been made; at the same time your Committee would remark, that a sense of their great responsibility in the important trust reposed in them, in reference to this part of their duty, has prevented, and must continue to prevent their bestowing the Scriptures indiscriminately. To do this they feel, would be not only to betray their trust, but by undermining the funds of the Society, serve to weaken their own hands, as also eventually, to disable the strong arm of benevolence, stretched forth from the Parent Institution, to administer to the real wants of thousands in distant parts of the Earth who are hungering for this "Bread of Life," and have not any thing where-with to pay. To such, and such only then as have no means of procuring, even at a very reduced rate, this invaluable book is given "without money and without price."—An objection has been stated by individuals (one which cannot fail of being injurious to the cause, if suffered to be influential) that the British and Foreign Bible Society is rich, and needs not now that effort to promote its operation as formerly. This sentiment evinces such a mistaken view of the important subject, as demands at least an effort to remove. To suppose this, would be in the first place, to suppose the Bible Society having a limited sphere of operation—whereas its boundaries are the habitable globe! And in the next place, to forget that increasing demand for the sacred scriptures, which, with an importunity irresistible is sounding from shore to shore; as also to lose sight of the salvation of our fellow mortals as well as that principal of divine charity, which, as the moving spring of this hallowed institution, urges it on in continual bounty to the perishing sons and daughters of Ignorance, Idolatry and Superstition. The British and Foreign Bible Society is indeed rich! but not in the gold that perisheth—nor can the thought for a moment ever be admitted, that the rust of its canker will witness against it at the last day:—No, it is rich in good works, and its munificence is a sacrifice acceptable to Heaven. Who then would not be emulous of uniting their little means to aid the tributary streams as they flow into this ocean of charity, which while its bosom gratefully receives increase from the smallest rivulet, is perpetually overflowing in boundless beneficence, and emptying its sacred waters, by innumerable channels issuing forth in every direction; nor will stay its fertilizing course, till in fulfilment of the divine prediction—"The wilderness and the solitary place be glad, and the desert bud and blossom as the rose"—"The whole earth being filled with the knowledge of the Lord." The Bible enjoins us to "do good unto all men"—and how can we more literally or scripturally comply with this divine injunction, than by giving, according to our ability, in aid of an institution, which is engaged under the blessing and direction of Heaven, in enlightening "The dark places of the Earth," and transforming the habitations of cruelty, into the tabernacles of the righteous." Need we further excitements to do good? more direct and poignant appeals to our hearts as *females* in order to activity, we have them—in the humiliating tidings which reach our ears, in reference to one branch alone, of heathenish superstition practised in India—that of widows burning themselves on the funeral pile of their husbands. Surely this horrid infatuation speaks volumes in favour of Bible Societies; it speaks also to us in language of the deepest compassion, and in accents of the tenderest pity, implores our aid, to assist in rescuing our degraded, suffering fellow mortals, *our own sex* from such dreadful superstition, by sending them the Bible, it is this, and this only, under the influence of His blessing who inspired it, which can penetrate the thick veil of ignorance and error, and dispel the cloud