

than the preceding year. The large deficits of preceding years have obliged the Committee to limit the expenditure where it could be done without serious injury to the work. But no clear call to enlarged operations has been neglected from the fear of funds failing. They have faith in God and His Church to believe, that where He opens a door for the entrance of His Word, the means to enter will be given. The excess of receipts over expenditure is owing to the legacies being much in advance of the average. This does not indicate a sound financial condition. The Committee would be greatly relieved if the ordinary contributors were sufficient to lessen their dependence on this precarious source of income. Still, remembering that the Society commences the new year, not only without a deficit, but with a fair balance of £11,437 6s. 9d. in hand, they record their sincere thanks to the donors, and their deep gratitude to God, who has inclined and enabled them to give, some out of their abundance, others out of their poverty.

The large deficit announced in the report for 1893, although considerably reduced, has not entirely been removed. The Society's working capital is still about £14,000 less than it was five years ago. The work of translation and revision has proceeded vigorously during the year, with an ever deepening and widening rate of progress. More has been attempted and more accomplished than in any previous year. In the east, the great versions of India and China are undergoing revision in the light of advancing knowledge, and in Africa and the Islés new languages are being pressed into the Society's service, and rapid progress is being made with versions already begun. In Korea a new version has been begun, and in Java a new version is being completed. Ceaseless efforts are being made by a great army of devoted scholars to render God's thoughts in the words of all men, and larger numbers of strange peoples are hearing in their own tongues the wonderful works of God. As we look at the achievements of the past and recent years, we say, so mightily grew the Word of God and prevailed.

The returns for Bible women, 402 in number, more or less, maintained by the society's grants, are encouraging. The number of native women to whom the Bible is read has grown to 527 a week more than before, and stands now at 22,014. Out of those who are being taught by the Bible women to read no less than 1,527 native women have attained between the year 1892-3 the power of being able to read the Scriptures for themselves; 15,931 Bibles, Testaments or portions of Scriptures have been circulated by the Bible women this year. The 402 Bible women were thus distributed: India, 291; Ceylon, 69; Syria and Palestine, 14; Egypt, 16; China, 8; Mauritius, 2; Teychelles, 4. The