

frequently neglected? Or are we to look deeper for the cause of this apathy? Must we ascribe it to a forgetfulness in man, that the mere possession of a Bible in their houses, will not operate as a charm; will not drive away the Devil from their hearts, or their hearths? that the Bible, apart from the Spirit which dictated it, must remain a dead letter; and that the *knowledge* of the Bible, and the *practice* of the Bible, act and re-act upon each other?

"Whatever be the cause, whether one or all of these, or others, your Committee feel and deplore the too general insensibility among Protestants, both as to the *privilege* and the *responsibility* which is entailed upon them, by the facility for obtaining the Scriptures that now exists.

"When your Committee cast their eyes upon the Heathen lands, and consider the efforts of the Parent Institution in all quarters of the globe, they envy not the man who can travel from Dan to Beersheba, and say there is no fruit. They pity him who can behold as it were 'the angel flying with the everlasting Gospel, to preach unto those who dwell on the face of the whole earth;' who can hear the news from *India* of whole towns and villages born, as it were, in a day; who can contemplate the concurrent and united efforts of Protestant Churches for the conversion of Israel according to the flesh; from the *South Pacific Ocean*, of whole islands of wild savages transformed by the Gospel of Jesus from cruel, ignorant, and ungodly idolaters, into gentle, intelligent, and civilized christians; from *Madagascar*, of the touchingly devoted attachment of its heroic and martyred converts to their treasured and beloved Bibles, and their deeply interesting letter of grateful thanks to the Parent Society for supplying them with that precious Volume, which, through the Spirit, supported them amidst their fiery persecution, even unto death, for the truth's sake; from *China*, of the increasingly cheering fruits of those self-denying and indefatigable labours in the cause of the Bible, which have rendered so deservedly illustrious the names of Morrison and Milne; from *France*, of the astonishingly successful labours of those eminent servants of the Bible Societies,—the humble, intelligent, and zealous Colporteurs, and of the extraordinary effect produced by the simple reading of the Bible, made effectual by the Holy Spirit,—and this extensively among the Roman Catholic population;—from Germany and elsewhere, of the rapidly kindling spirit of inquiry, and very remarkable stir among God's ancient people, the Jews,—(on whom the healing and purifying light of the Sun of Righteousness, *their* Divine Messiah and *ours*, seems to be on the very eve of bursting in full-foretold glory;) and this chiefly through the circulation of the Hebrew Bible, especially the New Testament, and the 53rd chapter of Isaiah;—or, to glance for a moment at scenes nearer our own hemisphere of duty, from *Lower Canada*, of the highly-encouraging results of the Missionary efforts making there, and the promising fruits attending the supply, to the Roman Catholics, of the light and life-giving Word of our God and Saviour.

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