

far he may agree in distributing the word of God." (*Bp. of Norwich at Anniversary of B. and F. Bible Society.*) And may we not hail the riches of the blessing on the British and Foreign Bible Society, as God's token of delight in its principles, and in its practice? Surely—if the matter had not been from the Lord, he would never have received such an offering at the hands of his Church, as is annually sacrificed at the altar of the Bible Society!

For example,—during the past year, the Receipts of the Society, from all sources, have amounted to £111,449 13 4—being £6,200 more than last year, and 3,700 more than any previous year of the Society's history; *and its issues have been ABOVE THREE FOURTHS OF A MILLION OF COPIES OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES.*

In further proof of the Lord's blessing—Your Committee beg to refer the Society to the Appendix as containing a brief review of the Parent Society's operations during the year 1839.

BUT TO RETURN TO OURSELVES.—To quicken us in the pursuit of duty—Your Committee desires to call to mind God's warnings. *Three of his four sore judgments have visited us,—the fire, the sword and the pestilence.* Purely judicial visitations are rare, if at all, in this world.—This is the Day of Mercy.—So that, even in the severest dispensations, we shall discover as much of mercy, as of judgment. We are not, however, to conclude that the visitations of Providence are never sent as judicial corrections, because the voice of love and kindness is heard in the lighting down of the rod! "*O Jerusalem, Jerusalem*" * * * is the affectionate language of our incarnate Saviour, at the very moment of denounced wrath—"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, if thou hadst known, even now, in this thy day, the things that belong to thy peace"—he would have added, *I would now gather thee as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings.*

Whether, then, our God thunder, as from Sinai; or, whisper encouragement as from Bethlehem; the heavenly instruction is equally clear and distinct.

As a Bible Society, then, we should learn righteousness, since his judgments have been abroad in our portion of the Earth; and, it may be added, *their voice still lingers.* We should enquire—how far late events may be referable to the neglect of the Church of Christ, in keeping the word of God from the people. This is a question, it is admitted, to be decided, not by your committee, but by the individual conscience of their constituents, as members of the body of Christ; yet it is a question, not to be hastily dismissed, but impartially and carefully considered. Of the *cause of one of these sore evils—the Sword*—Your Committee can entertain little doubt.