

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

ABSTRACT OF THE REPORT, 1894-5.

I.—FINANCIAL AND GENERAL MATTERS.

'I will sing of mercy and of judgment' is a fitting introduction to a retrospect of the past year. The Committee have been sorely exercised by what in their view were adverse events. The death of two Agents and the resignation of two others necessarily created anxieties which are not yet appeased. The war between China and Japan has had a disturbing influence on their plans and upon the labours of their employes in those countries. There have been other causes of disquietude. But while 'judgment' has a place in the song, 'mercy' claims the loudest note.

The Committee refer especially to the relief graciously afforded them by the supply of the funds required for the Society's work. By the generous gifts of the living, and by the hands of the dead, sufficient has been received not only to meet the current expenditure, but also to more than expunge the remainder of the deficit of 1889-92. So that the Society now stands in a better position than in 1889, when what is termed the 'bad years' began. Thus 'mercy rejoices against judgment.'

A brief statement of the financial condition of the Society up to March 31st, is as follows:—

The General (New Income) and Special Funds amount to £139,810 8s. 7d., which is £1,418 6s. 1d. less than in 1893-4. Sales have realised £93,552 18s. 1d., which is an advance of £1,812 14s. 2d. The total Receipts are therefore £233,363 6s. 3d., which is only £921 12s. 8d. less than in the year preceding.

The expenditure has been £214,970 7s. 10d., which is below that of last year by £7,877 4s. 9d., leaving a balance in hand on the year's account of £18,392 18s. 10d. This balance, as already intimated, removes the residue of the long-standing deficit, and leaves a surplus to be carried to the next year's account.

The Committee cannot close this brief review of the Society's finances without an expression of their devout gratitude to the Author of every good gift, Who has, in a year of peculiar trial, so graciously lightened their financial burden. 'He stayeth His rough wind in the day of the east wind.' They would also convey their warm thanks to the friends who, whether by ordinary or by special contributions, have liberated them from the embarrassment arising from past deficiencies, as well as enabled them to meet every current claim. 'The Lord hath been mindful of us: He will bless us.'

II.—ISSUES.

The Issues for 1894 are encouraging, although they have not yet fully regained the point they reached in 1892-3. The Home Issues of Bibles, Testaments, and Portions are 1,651,566. Those disseminated abroad are 2,185,656. The total Issues are 3,837,222. The chief point of interest in these figures is that they show the large increase of 28,264 copies in whole Bibles.

III.—TRANSLATIONS.

The statistics with regard to translation and revision work are not yet complete; but the Editorial Sub-Committee have had to do in some measure with over one hundred versions during the year. Of these about a dozen will represent new work and new beginnings, but the most important Editorial work of the Society has been

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