

and their earnest desire to procure them, first suggested the idea of the Bible Society; and when at length the New Testament was completed, and copies of it sent into that country, they were received with the most ardent and devout gratitude. As soon as the arrival of the cart which carried the first sacred load, was announced, the Welsh peasants went out in crowds to meet it; welcomed it as the Israelites did the ark of old: drew it into the town, and eagerly bore off every copy, as rapidly as they could be dispersed. The young people were to be seen consuming the whole night in reading it. Labourers carried it with them to the fields, that they might enjoy it during the intervals of their labour, and lose no opportunity of becoming acquainted with its sacred truths. No wonder that a people who received the printed copies of the word of God in such a tumult of joy, and proved the value that they set upon the boon by the use they made of it, should become the warm and steady friends of the Society. Such they have all along shewn themselves to be, for no people, in proportion to their numbers and ability, have done more in its support.

It was not long after the Society was considered as fairly established, when a correspondence was opened with "gentlemen in India, informing them of the establishment of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and requesting their communications respecting the best means of promoting the object of the Institution with regard to the Eastern languages." Dr. Carey and his colleagues at Serampore had made some encouraging progress in the translation of the Scriptures into the native languages of the East, and it was thought desirable, on the liberal principle of the Society, to associate with them Christians of other denominations for the promotion of the general cause. The first Corresponding Committee con-

sisted of George Udney, Esq., member of the Council of Calcutta; the Rev. Messrs. Brown and Buchanan, Episcopal clergymen residing in that city; and Messrs. Carey, Marshman, and Ward of the Serampore Mission, with power to add to their number "such other gentlemen in any part of India as they might think proper." This arrangement issued ultimately in the formation of those institutions at Calcutta, Bombay, Colombo, Batavia, and other parts of the East which have exerted themselves with so much energy in the general cause: and in those liberal grants of money and paper to the Missionaries, which materially aided them in the translation and dispersion of the Scripture in various languages and dialect among both the Christian and the Heathen population of our Eastern empire.

It is remarkable that, notwithstanding the liberal support the Society met with, in individual cases, the activity it displayed, and the success which attended its labours abroad, its progress in England did not for some years equal that which it had made in other places, and especially in Scotland and Wales. From various causes the seed which has since so abundantly sprung up, was destined to be for a considerable period buried under the soil: and although it is true that the augmentation of general contributions was great, and for the most part annually progressive, yet it is true that it required four years to double the amount of its first year's annual subscriptions; the return of the first year being £1,135 3s.—that of the fourth, £2,493 12s. 6d. How much the Lord has since blessed and extended its operations, the perusal of its successive annual reports will most satisfactorily shew. What encouragement to persevere in well-doing, under the conviction that in due season we shall reap if we faint not. Though "it is God that giveth