

the advancement of human happiness, and the extension of the Divine Glory. Then, indeed, would be exemplified and proclaimed universally the Gospel of Christ, in all the purity and sublimity of character ascribed to it at its first announcement in the world—**GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST, AND ON EARTH PEACE—GOOD WILL AMONG MEN; GLAD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY—TO ALL PEOPLE.**

And is this, after all, a Utopian speculation, a picture drawn by fancy, unauthorized by the word of God? Is it not rather a sober anticipation of the promised glories of Messiah's reign? Surely, the language of the Prophet, highly figurative as it is, in announcing this grand event, will justify the expectation of such a state of things. **THE DESERT SHALL REJOICE AND BLOSSOM AS THE ROSE. THE WOLF AND THE LAMB SHALL FEED TOGETHER. EVERY VALLEY SHALL BE EXALTED, AND EVERY MOUNTAIN AND HILL BE MADE LOW. THE GLORY OF THE LORD SHALL BE REVEALED, AND ALL FLESH SHALL SEE IT TOGETHER.**

Among the means to be employed by Christians for the advancement of this happy era, the circulation of the Holy Scriptures, the dissemination of the "good seed of the kingdom," appears to be one of the most direct and effectual. He who has declared that his "word shall not return unto him void," has in a remarkable manner smiled upon and prospered the efforts of his people in this cause. To give the greater effect to their operations the friends of truth have united their energies, and in associated harmony marched forward with the standard of the Gospel, "holding forth the word of life." The British and Foreign Bible Society stands foremost among these hallowed confederations. Its foundation were laid in faith; and though small in its beginning, and often obstructed in its progress, it has become a temple of

the Lord, and attained a magnitude and a splendour which have attracted the eyes of all nations, and from it have issued streams of light and glory to illuminate many of the dark regions of the earth.

Though all our readers are acquainted with its present character and rejoice in its prosperity, but few of them have been able to trace its progress from its origin to its present state. It is our intention, therefore, in this and some future numbers, to lay before them a brief sketch of the history of this admirable institution. It was the year 1804, in the stormy period of the French Revolutionary war, that this design to extend the kingdom of the **PRINCE OF PEACE** was first conceived and undertaken. But there are some preliminary steps and incidents which require to be previously noticed.

The primary occasion of all those measures which gave rise to the institution of the British and Foreign Bible Society, was the scarcity of Welch Bibles in the principality of Wales, and the impracticability of obtaining a supply from the only source then known. As early as the year 1787, this scarcity began to be more sensibly felt and deplored; and many pious Clergymen and others exerted themselves for a long time in vain to remove it. Scanty supplies were sometimes procured; but these were insufficient; and the want continued to increase. Application was made to the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge; but for some time without success. The poor Welch were unable to provide a remedy for the evil of which they complained, and their friends in England could not then offer a sufficient inducement to those who alone were competent to provide it. At length, in 1796, the Society just mentioned issued an order for a new edition of the Welch Bible to the amount of 10,000 copies.