

VII.—STATISTICS OF THE WORLD'S MISSIONS.

WORLD-WIDE DISTRIBUTION OF THE BIBLE.

[Rev. John Wilkinson (London) has published a powerful tract with the above caption. We avail ourselves of his statistics relating to Bible distribution.—EDS.]

REV. JAMES JOHNSTON, in his "Century of Christian Missions," puts the population of the world at about 1,470,000,000 : Protestants, 135,000,000 ; Greeks, 85,000,000 ; Papists, 195,000,000 ; Jews, 8,000,000 ; Mohammedans, 173,000,000 ; heathen, 874,000,000 ; altogether about 1,473,000,000 as the world's population at present. The Mohammedans and the heathen together make 1,047,000,000, besides about 11,000,000 of Jews. These 1,058,000,000 are uncivilized. Besides, there are millions of Greek Catholics and Roman Catholics as destitute of the Bible as are the Mohammedans and the heathen.

It is estimated that there are yet more than 3,000 languages and dialects into which the Holy Scriptures have never been translated.

At the head of the list of agencies for the distribution of the Bible is the British and Foreign Bible Society. According to the report of 1880 the issues of the Society were as follows :

From the Bible House, London : Bibles, 630,411 ; New Testaments, with or without Psalms, 1,190,891 ; Portions, 335,517. Total.....	2,192,819
From depots abroad : Bibles, 195,102 ; New Testaments, with or without Psalms, 625,295 ; Portions, 1,110,638. Total.....	1,931,035

Total for the year, of Bibles, New Testaments and Portions.....	4,123,854
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Total portions, 1,476,205, divided by 32, and thus reducing them to whole Bibles, make 46,131 ; which brings out the following total of Bibles, New Testaments and Portions reduced to Bibles : Bibles, 831,513 ; New Testaments, 1,816,186 ; Portions, reduced to Bibles, 46,131. Total.....	2,693,830
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The issues of the National Bible Society of Scotland for the same year, 1880, were as follows : Bibles, 151,450 ; New Testaments, 256,507 ; Portions, 234,705. Total.....	642,662
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Total portions, 234,705, divided by 32, and thus reducing them to whole Bibles, make 7,335 ; which brings out the following total of Bibles, New Testaments, and Portions reduced to Bibles : Bibles, 154,450 ; New Testaments, 256,507 ; Portions reduced to Bibles, 7,335. Total.....	418,292
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The issues of the Hibernian Bible Society for the same year were as follows : Bibles, 20,897 ; New Testaments, 25,332 ; Portions, 12,846. Total.....	59,075
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Portions reduced to Bibles, 462, which with Bibles and New Testaments make a total of Bibles, New Testaments and Portions reduced to Bibles, of.....	46,591
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The issues of the American Bible Society, as given in the report for the same year, were as follows : Bibles, 369,714 ; New Testaments, 693,515 ; Portions, 469,211. Total.....	1,532,440
Total Bibles, New Testaments and Portions reduced to Bibles.....	62,222

The report states that "there are at least twenty-five German Bible Societies. Some of them are very small." Only four or five occupy a prominent position. These are : (1) the Prussian Chief Bible Society, for the eight original provinces of Prussia ; (2) the Württemberg Bible Institute, for the kingdom of Württemberg ; (3) the Saxon Chief Bible Society, for the kingdom of Saxony ; (4) the Nuremberg Bible Association, for the kingdom of Bavaria ; and (5) the Berg Bible Society, on the Rhine. The circulation of the Prussian Chief Bible Society for 1885 reached 97,400 copies ; 80,091 of these Bibles. None of these were issued by the British and Foreign Bible Society, but were additional. "The other four Societies mentioned put into circulation, in 1884—39,530, 20,731, 6,752 and 17,477 copies respectively. About one-half of these books were supplied by the British and Foreign Bible Society. The work of the remaining twenty Societies was limited in extent, and comprised but few of the British and Foreign Bible Society's books."

Now let us gather the sum total of Bible circulation by these German Bible Societies: First we have the Prussian Society... 97,400

Then we have the Württemberg, Saxon, Nuremberg, and Berg Societies, altogether 84,493; from these we must deduct half, as reckoned to the British and Foreign Bible Society's issues—so these four Societies circulated..... 42,246

We put down for the other twenty small Societies a circulation of..... 6,550

This will make a total for the twenty-five Societies of.....	246,196
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The Unitarian Bible Society's report for 1887 says : "The circulation of Scripture during the past year has been as follows, in twenty languages" :—

Bibles, 3,354 ; New Testaments, 11,033 ; Portions, 96,620. Total.....	111,007
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