

the late visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to India, which illustrates the great extent of the Bible Society's work, and might afford some idea of the effect the Society's labours are producing. At different places during His Royal Highness's tour the Prince received from various bodies copies of translations of the Holy Scriptures into, I believe, no less than eleven languages, and in, I think, no less than nine cases the translations comprised the whole Bible, and some of the most important portions of both Testaments were presented, which had been translated into nine other languages in which no complete translation of the whole Bible had yet been finished. This may afford some idea of the number of readers in India to whom the Holy Scriptures are now accessible in their own Indian dialect; and when I mention that of all these versions four only were, I believe, complete when I first went to India forty-two years ago, we may have some idea of the great present activity of the Society's agents in a great number of missions scattered through such a number of nations speaking so many different dialects.

"Then, as to the effect produced apart from direct and entire conversions from other religions to Christianity, I may mention the fact, which struck me greatly, that I was assured from many quarters that many thousands of Hindoos who do not make any profession of Christianity habitually use books of the Old and New Testament as their models in prayer and their standards of morality. I need not trouble you with comments on the fact, but I am sure that all friends of the Bible Society will rejoice to think that the devotional portions of the Bible and the moral teachings of our Lord and His Apostles are largely read and deeply thought on by great bodies of their fellow-subjects who are still in search of a rule of life.—Believe me, my dear Sir, very faithfully yours,

"H. BARTLE E. FRERE.

"The Secretary of the Bible Society."

That is a most important document, and let us thank God that Sir Bartle Frere has been enabled to return in sufficient time to send to us these solemn and striking observations for the increase of our confidence and for our encouragement in the work in which we are engaged. Well, now, I thank you very sincerely for the vote to me which you have been pleased to pass, and I must entreat you to believe that I am not indifferent to this great cause because I did not in the outset of the proceedings detain you with any observations of my own. The truth is, I have occupied this chair now for nearly four-and-twenty-years, and in twenty of them, I believe, I made my speech when I opened the proceedings. I think that everybody must know my feelings, and I think a very large proportion must know even the language in which I should convey them. I think, therefore, that I do well to husband your time and your attention, and give free scope to those speakers from distant parts who have been invited to deliver to you the results of their observations. I give them only their due in enabling them to quote their records and make their statements without your being wearied by the length of the proceedings. But I will say, as my friend Dean Close has said, this may be the last time—although I am not a young man, I am not perhaps as old as he is—nevertheless, this may be the last time that either he or I will ever address you from this platform—I will say that the great ambition of my life, in a sublunary aspect, has been gratified in my holding the post that I now do, as the President of a Society for diffusing the Word of God in all its purity to the utmost ends of the earth.

The Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol then closed the meeting with the Benediction.