

set to work to compile them, we could not have the most distant idea that a society like the Bible Translation Society would be formed; and now they are out, we see why we were directed to draw up accounts so unusually complete, and full of details. Had brother Pearce not been here to take charge of the printing office during some months, and to afford to brother Thomas the necessary leisure, it would have been impossible to have furnished you with any other than very brief reports, even if we had been requested to draw them up with particular care. It is pleasant and encouraging thus to trace the hand of Providence, furthering the same design at once in the two extremities of the globe, without giving room to any thing like collision.

"You will, no doubt, have learned ere this reaches you, that the printing of the Bengali Bible has at length commenced. A small edition, to go as far as Exodus xx. will be carried through the press simultaneously with the large one. The first sheet of the small edition was prepared before the large one; and that first sheet was printed off on the 24th of March, the day when your Society was formed: so that it may be said, that no sooner did the Society exist, than its operations, though at a distance of many thousand miles, had actually commenced: for this edition of the Bible will probably be the first work chargeable upon the society. The first sheet of the large edition was being printed off, when we received the grateful intelligence. I will not neglect to send you a copy of it as a specimen. If brother G. Pearce is in London he will be able to give you a living commentary upon it. I have this morning read the twenty-first page of it for the press—it goes down to Gen. xxv. 28.

"As I have thus begun to mention the state of progress of our various works, I will just go on. The new edition of the Psalms is printed off as far as Ps. lxxix. 32; the Gospel of Matthew (10,000 copies) is just finished; I believe the last two chapters are being worked off to day. So far for the Bengali. The Gospels and Acts, in Sanscrit, have now been published,—the printing has advanced as far as I Cor. vi. 4. The new edition of the Hindustani translation is in type as far as John xvii; it looks very neat, and promises to be very acceptable. The New Testament in Persian, (Martyn's version) is in type as far as Matt. xi. or xii. I am not sure whether you know the history of this last work. A liberal Christian, residing in Cabul, wrote in March, to Mr. Thompson, of Delhi (then for a few days at Hurdwar,) to ask him, whether we would print for him 1000 copies of Martyn's version of the Per-

sian Testament, for distribution in the newly conquered provinces in the north-west. Mr. Thompson lost no time in writing to Mr. Thomas, nor he in conversing with brother Pearce on the subject. The intelligence reached Calcutta only about the 12th of March, and was immediately submitted to us all.

"The day before his death (March 16) brother Pearce was much engaged in making the calculations necessary to enable him to give an answer to the proposal; and about 9 o'clock in the evening, brother Thomas went in to learn the result. It was found that the expence would be more than two rupees per copy (the amount which had been suggested by the liberal friend;) but, that if we ourselves would undertake to print an additional number of copies, we might bring down the cost of 1000 copies to nearly that price. We consequently resolved to print 1000 additional copies of the whole New Testament, 1000 of the Gospels and Acts, and an edition of single Gospels for separate distribution. I remember when we took our last drive on the course together (it was Monday, March 16th) brother Pearce said to me, "Who would have thought that we should be permitted thus to become instrumental in spreading the word of God in those provinces which have heretofore been the stronghold of Mahomedanism? Our operations in translating and distributing the Scriptures may be compared to the dropping of a stone into the sheet of water. It produces circles, small at the beginning, but propagating themselves till they embrace the whole surface." Repeatedly in the course of the last three or four days of his life did he speak of this edition of the Persian Testament with more than ordinary delight. Indeed, his heart was much set on the distribution of the Scriptures, and he feared no trouble connected with the work of printing them. During the greater part of the winter he would read critically a Psalm or two (in Bengali) every morning, in order to be prepared to suggest some improvements, as the volume was again going through the press. And on Saturday, the 14th of March, after we had consulted on the mode of proceeding, he said, "All this will give you both much trouble, and to me and my people (meaning the compositors,) it will occasion more labor than I should be willing to undertake in the case of any other work; but it is the word of God, and therefore we will not shrink from any amount of labor."

I am, dear sir, Your's in Christian love,  
EDWARD STEANE, Sec.

Camberwell, Oct. 19, 1840.

CAMPBELL & BECKET, PRINTERS.