

## EXTRACTS OF BRITISH AND FOREIGN REPORTS.

## ENGLAND.

"The Rev. F. E. Wigram, who had just been appointed to the Secretariat of the Church Missionary Society, made an admirable speech at Southampton, on the close interdependence of the two Societies; and he indicated the line of policy he should endeavour to pursue in his new position. Nothing could promise more happy co-operation between all evangelical societies than the sentiments and spirit of his address."

"At Arundel the new vicar, Rev. A. S. Thompson, riveted the attention of his audience by a graphic description of our work in Russia, with which a thirteen years' residence in St. Petersburg had made him familiar. He had traversed Finland with the Society's Agent, the Rev. W. Nicholson, upon whom he passed a high eulogium. No more satisfactory testimony could have been borne to the extent, efficiency and usefulness of the Society's work in that vast empire."

Mr. Raine relates :—

"Before the Annual Meeting at Slingsby, I met a very remarkable man, in the person of Captain Ward, who was the officer in charge of Nelson's body on its way to England, after the battle of Trafalgar in 1805. The evening being very dark, the captain could not go to the meeting. He had not been absent before, and seemed much distressed. He told me, 'Of all societies the Bible Society is the one I love best,' and that it was a pleasing reflection that he had done some work for the Society, with William Wilberforce, in and about London."

Of the Association at Norbury, Mr. Thomas says :—

"It was founded by Mr. Luke Sampson, a farmer, of Norbury High Grounds, who, in 1851—shortly after his conversion—attended the Annual Meeting of the Ellastone Association. At its close the deputation—the Rev. H. Western Plumtre, then Rector of Eastwood—asked him to try and do something for the Bible Society at Norbury. Mr. Sampson's first efforts were put forth in circulating the Scriptures in the neighbourhood. He canvassed the parishes of Norbury and Snelston, calling on almost every family.

## "AN EXAMPLE OF GROWTH.

"He found a good many houses without a copy of God's Word; and no fewer than 134 Bibles were sold in the first year of his work. In addition he obtained fifty-three subscribers who most willingly promised to contribute annually to the Society's general funds. The following year additional copies of the Scriptures were sold, and the names of subscribers increased to 110. The first meeting was held in November, 1852; and as the Rector refused to lend the Parish School-room for the purpose, the meeting was held in the cheese room of the Farm. Mr. Plumtre was the Deputation and over one hundred people were present. The amount raised in that first year for general purposes was £10, and for Scriptures sold £18. For four years the meetings continued to be held in the cheese room, but as the interest in the Society's work increased, Mr. Sampson thought it advisable to hire a tent for the meeting and alter the time of holding it from the autumn to the summer of the year, which was done. Canon Bardsley, of Manchester, was the first Deputation to the Tent Meeting, to which were gathered about 350 neighbours and friends. The amount of Free Contributions that year was £29. From that time the meeting has been held every year (with three exceptions) in the tent, Mr. Sampson providing tea for all the visitors. It may safely be asserted that no meetings of the county possess a more sacred or solemn interest than those annual reunions under the Norbury Tent. Some of the foremost of the