

tioned, that the total expenditure will fall within the data on which the estimated cost was calculated,—a result for hearty congratulation, and almost without a parallel in buildings of such magnitude, in the execution of which the shrewdest foresight is often baffled by unexpected and costly contingencies. And it may be yet further observed, that the prompt and generous liberality of the friends of the Society has furnished funds which, with a slight addition, will cover the entire outlay. Every charge legitimately appertaining to the erection has been met by the Building Fund. There are still some outstanding liabilities to be provided for, but the Committee have confidence that the desire they expressed in their original appeal, that the ordinary resources of the Society should not be taxed with any portion of the cost, will be fulfilled, and that the noble structure now finished will become the freehold inheritance of the British and Foreign Bible Society for ever, without the entail of the smallest amount of debt. Surely these are circumstances which prove that God has not withheld His blessing, and they demand a reverent and grateful acknowledgment of His co-operation and favour.

It seemed, therefore, most appropriate that there should be a special commemoration of the event—a service of inauguration—taking formal possession by solemn acts of devotion and thanksgiving. Hence the request made to his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, to preach a commemorative sermon in St. Paul's Cathedral, an arrangement in which the Dean and Chapter most cordially concurred; and now, as that service is a matter of fact and history, it is scarcely necessary to record that the request of the Committee was very cordially entertained by the Archbishop of Canterbury, to whom the Society is thus laid under a fresh debt of obligation.

It was, moreover, determined that a service of a more simple and strictly devotional character should be held in the new premises, to hallow and set apart for God's glory the very spot where the important deliberations of the Society are henceforth to be held and its operations directed. That service was held yesterday, (May 4), and was conducted by old and valued friends of the Society, whose fervent intercessions at the Throne of Grace, and words of counsel and congratulation, will have an abiding impression upon the hearts of those whose privilege it was to be present. Suitable addresses were delivered by the Rev. T. Binney, the Rev. C. Kemble, and the Rev. Dr. Cumming. The devotions of the assembly were read by the Rev. W. Cadman, the Rev. J. C. Harrison, and the Rev. W. G. Lewis.

It may be added here, that the Committee presented a copy of the Bible to each of the workmen who had been employed for any length of time in the erection of the new premises, and whose demeanour throughout, it is only just to remark, was most creditable to themselves.

The occasion being altogether one of rare and exceptional interest, the Committee thought that it would afford the Society's Agents, who are labouring on the continent of Europe, an inexpressible satisfaction to be present and share the joy of this festive season. The invitation was necessarily limited, but there are upon the platform this morning men whose names hold an honoured place in the history of the Society:—M. de Pressense, who for thirty-six years has rendered faithful and diligent service in France, much to the benefit of his native country; Mr. E. Millard, of Vienna, who with great courage and perseverance has established your operations in almost every centre of the Austrian Empire; the Rev. G. P. Davies, who is the able superintendent of the Cologne and Frankfort districts of your German agency, and the Rev. Dr. Simon, who is stationed at Berlin; Mr. T. Brace, who has charge of your Italian work; Mr. Kirkpatrick, to whom the Belgian agency is entrusted; Mr. Van der Bom, who directs your operations in Holland; and, lastly, the Rev. J. Plenge, who is proving himself an efficient labourer in the Kingdom of Denmark.

Of the ordinary operations of the Parent Society during the past year, we present the following in reference to