

It is the distinctive glory of Protestant missions that everywhere they teach the people to read, and put the Bible in their hands. Take one example of missionary work as aided by the Bible Society—Uganda. Less than 20 years ago Stanley's letter in the *London Daily Telegram*, describing the sad condition of the people and King Mtisa's willingness to receive Christian teachers, touched the heart of Christian England. To-day 100,000 persons have been brought into close contact with the Gospel, 50,000 are able to read, there are two hundred church buildings, 200 native evangelists and teachers supported by the native church, 10,000 copies of the New Testament in circulation, and the people so eager for the Word of God, that they will give a week's wages for a copy, and the demand cannot be supplied.

It is the fact that the converts in our Foreign fields are learning to read the Scriptures for themselves and to love them that gives us hope for the future. The Bible read and studied by the people is the only guarantee of the permanency and purity of the Christian faith in any land. Otherwise the ministry becomes a priesthood, and the people fall back into a condition of ignorance and superstition, little better than their original heathenism. Their Christianity is little more than a baptized Paganism. One has only to look at such countries as Mexico, South America, the Philippine Islands to see what a sad parody results after centuries of missionary effort, when the Scriptures are not taught to the people.

The distinctive work of the Bible Society to-day is to bring each individual into direct contact with Apostolic Christianity as presented to us in the New Testament—to have each person read for himself the wonderful words of Jesus, which are spirit and life.

REV. F. H. WRIGHT, the mover of the second resolution, said nothing so strongly commended the work of the Bible Society as that it is a valuable auxiliary to missionary enterprise. It is good for us to remember that the time will come when the gospel will be known all the world over. So at the end of the 19th century it is good for us to view the consummation of the work of propagating the gospel. But there is work for us yet to do. God's purposes will un-