

having, however, ascertained that there was some doubt whether any deputation would be admitted to an interview with the Shah, and the great object in view being to secure the reception of the Book, the Committee accepted the kind offer of Sir Henry Pawlinson, who undertook to deliver it to His Majesty in their name, and explain to him the work in which the Society was engaged.

It was not until after this had been done, that an intimation was received from the Persian Minister through the Lord Chamberlain's office, on Saturday afternoon, June 28, that the Shah would receive a deputation from the Bible Society on the following Monday. The notice was very short, but no time was lost in preparing the subjoined address, which was presented in the name of the Committee by the Earl of Shaftesbury, the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, and the two Secretaries.

Memorial of the President, Officers, and Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society to His Majesty the Shah of Persia.

“ May it please Your Majesty,

“ With profound respect we would approach your Majesty to express our great satisfaction that it has pleased your Majesty to visit our beloved Sovereign and the people of England.

“ The cordiality with which your Majesty has been welcomed is a strong proof of the wide-spread desire of Englishmen to cement the bonds of peace and friendship which happily subsist between this Kingdom and that ancient Empire over which your Majesty bears sway.

“ The gracious expression of your Majesty's opinion that Persia and England have many interests in common, encourages your Memorialists to bring under your Majesty's favourable consideration the condition of the Nestorian and Armenian Christians in Persia. We pray that they may be protected in the enjoyment of complete freedom in religious matters, and also in civil rights, as is now the case with thirty millions of Her Majesty's Mohammedan subjects in India, who, together with the Hindoos, Parsees, and others, enjoy complete toleration and entire civil freedom. We would further pray your Majesty to grant the same toleration and civil freedom, not only to Christians, but to Jews, Parsees, and any of your Majesty's subjects who may wish to make an open profession of the Christian religion.

“ Your Majesty has already graciously accepted from your Memorialists a copy of that Book which all Christian churches regard as the Word of the living God. The truths which it contains have become, through God's blessing, the source of the religious life, social progress, and material prosperity which your Majesty has witnessed during your visit to this country. It is the aim and desire of your Memorialists to circulate this Sacred Book in the various languages of the world, so that all may read in their own tongue the wonderful works of God.

(Signed)

“ SHAFTESBURY, *President.*

“ C. J. GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL, *Vice-President.*

“ CHARLES JACKSON, }
“ SAMUEL B. BERGNE, } *Secretaries.*

The following reply has since been received :—

“ BUCKINGHAM PALACE, July 5th, 1873.

“ I have received the commands of His Majesty the Shah to acknowledge the receipt of your Memorial, praying that complete freedom in religious matters, and also in civil rights, may be accorded to the Nestorian, Armenian, and other Christian communities in Persia.

“ In reply, I am directed to state that persecution in Persia, on religious grounds, is unknown. Complete toleration exists throughout the country, and His Majesty is equally solicitous for the welfare of all classes of his subjects.