

VI. While we bring these proofs of the power of the Bible as an evangelizing agency in lands that have been covered with a dark pall of ignorance and superstition, we must remember that that power is still greater in lands where for centuries it has been moulding the thoughts of the people, determining their beliefs, enkindling their hopes, regulating their morals, shaping their legislation, colouring their literature, dominating the language of the home, the school, and the church. True, no occurrence in Christendom may afford an exact parallel to those which we have cited from heathen lands; from the nature of things we ought not to expect that. The power of the Book may be less conspicuous, but it is not less mighty, where it is best known.

An American layman ventures the remark: "It is not too much to say that the books of the Old and New Testaments have exerted more influence, whether for weal or woe, on the course of human affairs among civilized nations, than all other books put together." He also adds: "My own strong conviction is, that the only hope for the civilization and the happiness of the generations that are to come in this English-speaking world depends on the continued reverent study of the English Bible."

It is this influence, confessedly exerted by the Bible in the lands where the printed Book has been in the homes of the people for centuries, which adds emphasis to the arguments from all other sources for holding forth the word of life to every nation which we seek to incorporate in the kingdom of the Redeemer.

More and more does it appear that the printed BIBLE, apart from all ritual, or hymnal, or catechism, or harmony, or comment; THE BOOK, containing the Old Testament and the New, with every precept of the Master's, every incident of His life, every apostolic word of counsel, of promise, of warning, of revelation, every recorded fact of primeval history, every prediction of inspired men; with all its wealth of parable and evangel and proverb and psalm and canticle; historic, prophetic, didactic, poetic; the things hard to be understood no less than the simple; this BOOK, faithfully, closely, fully translated, is to be given to the nations of the earth in their several tongues in which they were born, a stream of living water, whose perpetual flow shall gladden the wilderness, and make the whole earth as the garden of the Lord.

A SOUVENIR OF 1888.

Among the beautiful incidents of the late Missionary Conference, and the various ecclesiastical councils which were held in London, was a souvenir presented to these gatherings by the British and Foreign Bible Society. It was entitled, "A Souvenir of 1888." It was neatly bound and beautifully printed, and embraced perhaps fifty pages. It contained one sentence only—one, but that the most remarkable, the most pregnant of meaning, and the most blessed that has ever been framed into human language and made known to men. It was this: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."—one sentence, *but it was printed in two hundred and sixty-seven languages*—the languages in which the British and Foreign Bible Society has given the whole or parts of the Word of God to the nations of mankind in their own tongue. No greater tribute could have been laid before the Missionary Conference as signifying the value of missionary labour. Who but missionaries have translated the Word of God into these languages? Who were the patient toilers who even framed and formulated some of the simple languages which only existed before in spoken form? Who shall sum up the aggregate years of labour which have been spent in this blessed work?