

returning the seed manifold, adding new energies to the activities of this Christian enterprise. The destinies of man are not to be measured by the magnitude of first appearances. Nations do not grow in a day, nor do principles mature their results in one generation of men. The gourd may ripen in a few days, to decay in as many hours. The oak does not cease to grow for centuries—to last for as many more. In truth the principle which Admiral Fitzroy said, in reference to storms, should be written upon everything a sailor had—quick come, quick past; long looked for, long last; this principle is applicable not only to storms which threaten the fishermen of the coast or the sailor on the deep, but to everything in nature. In accordance with this principle we may confidently look for the eventual success of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

THREE QUARTERS OF A CENTURY HAVE PASSED

since it was inaugurated, and its progress has not been as the perishing gourd, but its advance more like to that of the oak. Slowly but steadily it has increased. It has outlived the scorn and contempt of one generation; it has flourished despite the opposition of another, and now it is ready to battle with opponents, who in the pride of intellect would throw contempt upon the Book it sends forth and overthrow the old foundations—foundations based also upon the experience of men of every tribe, of all the ages and in every quarter of the earth.

In connexion with this experience permit me to state a few facts which show the working of the human mind, its appreciation of its condition, the deep abasement of the soul realizing the presence of God, the poignant sense of sin, the joys of a deliverance through an appointed way. A young man in the full enjoyment of life, like too many of his companions, thoughtless and not more reckless than they, wakes up to his responsibility as a moral being. He thus writes: "I speak from heartfelt experience; I would give worlds, if I had them, to undo what I have done." A few months later from Sebastopol he writes:—"The duty in the