

mand for the Scriptures, for religious reading, and for the preaching of the Word has been marvellous. The Society is now sending books almost exclusively to the soldiers, sometimes two or three thousand volumes to supply a single order at one point.

I am sorry that I can give you no more detailed intelligence of the work of Bible distribution in our country. The scarcity of the Word has been so great that it now taxes all our energies to supply the soldier; and one of the evils of this war upon us is, that the people must wait till better days before the destitute can be supplied.

Intelligence has also been received of the safe arrival of Scriptures forwarded to the Bible Society at Charleston. Some fears were at one time entertained that they were lost, but Mr. Middleton writing under date June 18th, says:—

Within a few days every package has been received, and we have now, thanks to the kindness of the British and Foreign Bible Society, a good supply of the Word of God for our destitute soldiers.

You will be pleased to know that your benevolent efforts have not been in vain, and I have no doubt it will be a matter of satisfaction to you to learn that the demand for Bibles and Testaments is increasing, and that, to a considerable extent, the soldiers seem to appreciate the privilege which the supply has afforded them.

Various expenses keep us at present low in funds, and we will continue to avail ourselves of your forbearance until the amount due to you can be remitted at a reasonable rate, which God grant may soon be the case.

FUNDS.

It was not without some feeling of anxiety that your Committee, in presenting their Financial Statement for the year 1863, were under the necessity of announcing that their total Receipts from all sources had been less by nearly £10,000 than in the year preceding; and it is with proportionate gratitude to the Giver of every good and perfect gift, that they now record that God has been better to them than all their fears, and that the income of the present year has exceeded that of any former year by the sum of £1,221 2s. 8d. Their cause of gratitude is twofold. They cannot but praise God for having placed in their hands ample means for carrying on His work at a time when in India and China, and South America, as well as other parts of the world, openings are presenting themselves for the circulation of His Truth, the entrance into which will necessarily involve a large and increasing expenditure. But they also praise Him unfeignedly because they believe that the satisfactory results which they are permitted this day to record are a testimony from the people of this country to the value which they put upon the Word of God, and to their determination, God helping them, to maintain the integrity and inspiration of that written Word, notwithstanding all the arguments of a subtle philosophy, and the seductive teachings of a once covert, but now more open, infidelity.

The RECEIPTS of the year from ordinary sources have amounted to £168,905 4s., being £1,221 2s. 8d. more than in any former year. For Special Purposes the sum of £798 13s. 7d. has been subscribed; making a grand total of £169,703 17s. 7d.

The amount applicable to the GENERAL PURPOSES of the Society is £89,897 13s. 6d., showing an increase of £5,634 13s. 6d. on the receipts of the preceding year, and including the following items:—