

THE  
BIBLE ADVOCATE.

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HISTORY OF THE BRITISH AND  
FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

*Continued from page 19.*

Having furnished the Mohawks with a part of the New Testament in their own language, and provided for the printing of the Welsh Bible, the Society engaged in a series of active measures to make its plan and object extensively known, and engage, if possible, all those who loved the Bible, in every part of the world, to co-operate in its general distribution. On its first appeal to the public, the Christians of Wales and Scotland distinguished themselves by individual, congregational, and associated contributions to its funds; and rivalled each other, and their fellow Christians in England, by the promptitude and liberality of their support. Ireland did not remain uninterested in this strife of love; but manifested as strong a disposition as its local impediments would allow, to aid in promoting so glorious a work. The continent of Europe felt the impulse which London had excited, and evinced the effects of it in local associations for prosecuting the same common purpose, under the auspices, and by

the aid, of the parent institution. The friends of the cause were both surprised and delighted to find that, not only the protestants of the continent were forward to aid in the distribution of God's word, but that, in many instances, Roman Catholics, both lay and clerical, displayed their readiness to unite with them in promoting the circulation of the Scriptures. A Roman Catholic Bible Society was established at Ratisbon, under the direction of the Rev. Mr. Wittman, principal of the Ecclesiastical Seminary at that place. A clause in the Decree of the Council of Trent, relative to the prohibition of reading the Scriptures by the laity, is somewhat ambiguous in expression; and the more pious and zealous part of the Romish clergy, taking advantage of this circumstance, and construing the passage liberally, feel themselves at liberty to engage in the distribution of the Scriptures, and to encourage their perusal to a certain extent. Such, at the least, has been the case with many priests on the continent of Europe.

It will be recollected that the want among the poor people in Wales of the Scriptures in their own language,