

be said, that the hallowed truths drawn from the Bible have comforted all their waste places, have made their wilderness like Eden, their desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness have been found therein, thanksgiving and the voice of melody.

Who might traverse every country into which that Word has entered, and select some trophy of its power to subdue. And herein lies the glory of its victory, that each captive is made willing in the day of Christ's power, and is no sooner transferred to the number of the redeemed, than, re-accounted in the panoply of love and truth, and sincerity and peace, he becomes the uncompromising adversary of evil, of sin, of the world, and of the devil.

We might take you to each portion of the African coast, to tribes the most degraded,—we might take you to Europe, to nations the most polished, and each would give proof of the adaptation of the Word to the soul of man.

This blessed tree will flourish in every clime, the snows of the north do not nip it, the parching heats of the tropics do not cause it to wither; every where it blooms, it blossoms, it bears fruit to the praise of the glory of God's grace.

Who, then, but must rejoice in an Institution such as this, and who does not find another life to bind him to the land of his birth when he contemplates it, not as the magazines of arms to destroy, but as the grand depot of Bibles to save. Oh, it is not when we look upon our belted ocean that we feel that we are secure from every foreign foe; nor when we look upon our walled walls, which have ever been our boast, do we regard our empire as fixed, our might as permanent. Oh, no! But it is when we feel that the God of the Bible is honoured in our houses, in our hearts, and in our lives, that we are sure that He will be our wall of fire round about us, because He is our glory in our midst.

One word more, and we close. There is something striking and peculiar in this spot which our island holds in respect of the world. It stands, as it were, in an advanced position between the Old and the New. How fitting, then, that from it should be given forth the first burst of the trumpet of Jubilee! May the sound which issues from this Hall be taken up throughout the land—may its echo resound from mountain and from hill, in glen, in vale, in plain,—may it be wafted o'er the sea, and roll from shore to shore, till earth's remotest bound hath caught its richest note! May the blessings which it recalls to mind,—the cancelling of debt, the restoration of inheritance, the cessation from all toil,—the rich, the joyous, the free communion, where heart meets heart, as hand joins hand,—be so impressed upon each soul, that it shall be a means to hasten on the time when, in one overwhelming chorus, shall be uplifted the exhilarating cry, Hallelujah! the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth!

JUBILEE OF THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY, 1853.

ADDRESS TO THE YOUNG.

MY DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS—

You are invited to engage in a blessed work. It is one which will not interfere with any other duty, while, if undertaken from right motives, it will make every other duty sweet and pleasant.

God, in his infinite mercy, has given to us a Revelation of His holy mind and will, in that Sacred Volume which we call the BIBLE. In that Book He has declared that every child of Adam is born in a sinful state, and can obtain pardon, peace, and salvation, only by and through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is "THE WAY, THE TRUTH, and THE LIFE!"

This world is inhabited by about ONE TRION AND MILLIONS OF PEOPLE, that is, about forty times as many as all the inhabitants of England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. More than half of these are poor benighted Heathen, and of those who are called "Christians," many millions

have not a Bible, and are ignorant of the way of Salvation.

Nearly fifty years ago a Society was formed in London, for the sole purpose of encouraging a wider circulation of the Holy Scriptures both at home and abroad. It is called "THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY," and all persons, who bellers the Bible to be a Revelation from God, are invited to join it. You will see that the Divine Blessing has rested on this Society when I tell you what has been already done.

By its example and assistance, about TEN THOUSAND BIBLE Societies and Associations have been established in the world. Of these, nearly one half are in our own country and in the British Colonies.

Fifty years ago, the Holy Scriptures had not been printed in more than FIFTY languages. They are now translated, in whole or in part, into ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-EIGHT LANGUAGES AND DIALECTS.

Fifty years ago, it was estimated that there could not then be more than FOUR MILLIONS of Bibles and Testaments in the world. By means of Bible Societies, more than FORTY MILLIONS have been already distributed, about SIXTEEN MILLIONS of which are in the Languages of Great Britain and Ireland.

For this altered state of things, my dear young friends, we should be thankful to ALMIGHTY GOD; but let us never forget that the work is not done. Supposing that as many as TEN MILLIONS have been distributed by other Societies, and by private sale; and supposing every Bible and Testament of the Fifty Millions to have been preserved, and to be in the possession of a family of five persons, there must be SEVEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY MILLIONS of mankind still destitute of this blessed guide to heaven!

Children were among the very earliest friends of the Bible Society; and thousands of children in Great Britain, America, and other countries, are collecting money to assist it in supplying the world with that Holy Book which you possess, and are taught to love. Do not suppose that you cannot do much: little streams make great rivers. The contributions and collections of dear children who love their Bibles, and that adorable Saviour whom it reveals, have enabled the Bible Society to send to hundreds of thousands of their fellow-creatures those "Holy Scriptures which are able to make wise unto salvation, through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

Let me give you a few proofs of what the young may do in this good work.

1. Not only were children among the earliest friends of the Bible Society, but it is a very interesting fact, that the first Bible Association ever formed was established in 1804, by a young lady of about fifteen years of age, at SHEFFIELD, without her having the slightest knowledge of the existence of the BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY, which was formed in the same year. The name of this young lady was Catherine Elliott, and the beginning of this first "Juvenile Bible Association" was very small: it was, indeed, "the least of all seeds." This dear young lady observing, in her kind visits to the poor, a deplorable want of the Holy Scriptures, determined to do what she could towards supplying this want. She mentioned to her younger brother her intentions of contributing something every week towards purchasing a Testament; for at this time she had no idea of being able to give away a Bible. She began with a Penny, and he with a Half-penny. They procured a tin box, in which they kept their savings, until at length they amounted to SIXTEEN Pence, with which they bought a Testament. This young lady next drew up a short appeal, which she sent to her school-fellows. The proposal was received and entered upon with ardour, and the Testaments were given away as fast as they could be procured. The number of Subscribers gradually increased, and a degree of system was adopted. The committee consisted of four Subscribers, who met every fortnight. The total number of Bibles and Testaments distributed by

this little Society in sixteen years exceeded TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED. Only suppose each copy to have been read by five persons, then more than TWELVE THOUSAND have been enabled, by means of a little girl, to become acquainted with the all-important truths of "the glorious Gospel of the blessed God!"

Cannot children, then, do something?

2. In 1812 the first "Juvenile Association" on a regular and systematic plan was established, in connection with the Southwark Auxiliary Bible Society, under the title of the "Surrey Chapel Bible Association", and consisting of the children and teachers of the SUNDAY SCHOOLS under the superintendence of the "Southwark Sunday School Society". This extraordinary Association continues in full activity, and you will be surprised when I tell you, that, during THIRTY-NINE years, it has distributed more than THIRTY-THREE THOUSAND Bibles and Testaments, and paid to the Southwark Auxiliary Society more than SIX THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED POUNDS.

According to the calculation already made, nearly TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND persons may thus have been made acquainted with the way of Salvation.

Cannot children do much?

3. A Juvenile Bible Association was formed in a Ladies' Boarding School at Dronghda, near Manchester, in April, 1831. It consists of only twelve collectors. The total amount collected within only eighteen months has been £12 18s. 10d. Of this sum nearly one half was derived from the sale of needlework, &c. This interesting little Association does not distribute any Bibles, so that the whole amount collected is sent to supply the world.

4. There is, however, my dear young friends, another way in which you may not only assist the Bible Society, but may assist in the accomplishment of the glorious object for which a God of infinite mercy has given the Bible unto man. You may not only "adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things," but may commend that blessed Book to others previously ignorant of its value. Let me explain my meaning by one fact. You have doubtless all heard, that, nearly twenty years ago, that foul plague-spot which had so long disgraced the character of our country was removed, by the emancipation of the slaves in all the colonies of Great Britain. The Committee of the Bible Society at the suggestion of the Rev. Hugh Stowell, unanimously resolved to present to every emancipated Negro, capable of reading, a New Testament of large size. A special fund was raised for this purpose, and Public Meetings were held in many parts of England and Wales in furtherance of this design. On the morning after one of these meetings, at a town where I was the guest of a dear friend, one of his little daughters, accompanied by two or three of her younger sisters, presented me with a sealed packet, requesting it might not be opened until I should have left the house, saying, "We hope it may be accepted as a small contribution from four little girls, to assist in the supply of the Holy Scriptures to the poor Negro children in the West Indies." Her parents had left the room, but there was a gentleman present who had breakfasted with us—a stranger to me, but an intimate friend of the family—and who had listened to the words of the child with marked interest. That gentleman was my only companion in a long journey during the rest of the day, and shortly after taking our seats in the coach, I broke the seal of the little packet, and found it contained nearly FIVE POUNDS. On my alluding to the scene we had just witnessed, his eyes filled with tears as he said, "Yes, Sir, she is indeed an interesting child; but she is much more, for she is a pious Christian." And after a pause he added, with evidently deep feeling, "To that child, Sir, I am indebted for all my happiness upon earth, and all my hopes for eternity." On my soliciting an explanation, he said he had been connected in business with her excellent father, but, unlike him, was not a believer in the truths of the Bible, and had made no secret of