

1st,—That such a Society as this was proper, expedient, and necessary.

2d,—That the benefits which had resulted from its formation up to the present time, fully realized the expectations of its founders, and evinced that the Divine Blessing had been vouchsafed to the Society.

3d,—That such advantages, direct and incidental, still attended it, as justified and required us to support and extend it.

On the first point—reference was made to the general and increasing destitution of the Bible, not in Heathen and Mahometan countries only—not in Foreign Christian Countries, nor in the British Colonies and distant Dominions alone ; but in the United Kingdom itself, in the centre of the country, in the very heart of its metropolis,—a destitution which the then existing Societies could not supply,—the incumbent duty there was of endeavouring to supply it, and the necessity of combined operation,—the readiness of many persons to aid in circulating the Bible, who yet had objections to joining the old Societies,—the importance of persons of various denominations agreeing to adopt the authorised English version, and uniting in the work of translating the Bible into foreign tongues ; and especially the promotion of brotherly kindness and Christian charity, by finding some common ground on which all who hold to the Bible as the Standard of Truth, and open to all, might come together, not into an arena of discord and controversy, but into a field of amity and concord, and this was effected by the Bible Society without any sacrifice of opinion, or violence to religious principle.

On the second point,—the benefits which had resulted from the Society ; it was stated that nearly seventeen million copies of the Bible and Testament, in 138 different languages and dialects, had been issued, at a cost of over three millions of pounds sterling,—that there were now 428 Auxiliary Societies in England, and 3550 associations in the United Kingdom,—in the Colonies, 65 Auxiliaries, and 497 associations. Discreet and zealous agents had been sent to most places in Europe, and to many other parts of the world, to open or discover channels for the introduction of the Bible. Various Bible Societies had sprung up in foreign countries, of all which the British and Foreign Society might be considered the Parent. Bible Societies in France had issued near 400,000 Bibles and Testaments—in Northern Europe, nearly 900,000,—in Prussia, nearly one million,—in Russia, over a million and a half,—in Switzerland, Greece, and Italy, nearly 600,000,—in India, nearly 1,400,000,—in the United States of America, over 3,700,000. There were in all, 61 Foreign Societies, which have issued over eleven millions ; and these added to the issues of our Parent Society, made a total of very nearly *twenty-eight millions of Bibles and Testaments* ; and all this within a period of forty years. Nor, had the Societies in England in the mean