

Grateful mention of this Society's grants, both to itself and to the S. P. G. Ladies' Association, is again made in the report of the venerable Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.* Other societies have similarly expressed their appreciation of the aid given them, and some examples of the success of the work incidentally find a place in other sections of this Report. The Rev. J. Lazarus, B.A., who has had much experience in directing this branch of the Society's operations, speaks thus of its general progress in the town of Madras: "Although the foes of Christianity have done their utmost to discredit the Bible-woman, warning their countryman against the 'enticing speech of the mission kidnapper,' it is a matter for joy and gratitude that their efforts have signally failed. The Christian labourer is everywhere welcomed, and the women listen to the reading of the Scriptures with delight. The opening chapters of Genesis, the Psalms of David, touching incidents in the life and work of our Lord, the conversion of Paul and the closing chapters of Revelation are special favourites with them. Many passages are committed to memory, are pondered over in private, and form the basis of thoughtful questions and animated conversation. Those who are taught to read get their first impressions from the sacred volume. Portions are purchased, and here and there a Tamil Bible may be seen among a woman's little stock of books. In some cases family life is affected to this extent, that the reading of God's Word is taking the place of the recital of scenes from the Rāmāyana and the Mahābārata, a practice which has done so much to keep alive the spirit of the Hindu faith in the bosom of the family. Thus the truth becomes embedded in the minds and interwoven with the thoughts of native females. The work of the Bible-woman as the complement of that of the male teacher is helping not a little towards the true weal of India." And the Rev. Robert Clark, the veteran missionary of the Church Missionary Society in the Punjab, writes of it: "We must not think little of foundation work, or imagine that only little is done because the walls of the building do not immediately begin to rise above the ground. It would not be well if they did, because the building would then probably be short-lived, and soon fall. Your work is not in vain. It is not a little work which is carried on amongst the women. Do all you can that it may be done well. We thank you for what you are doing through God's grace. Go on in steady perseverance with prayer and faith."

JOHN SHARP, M.A.

THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD.

In this country we frequently feel constrained to glorify God for the wonderful manner in which He magnifies His written word in the conversion of souls. Missionaries frequently meet with men already converted, or seeking the truth, who have never before met a minister or any other teacher of the Word, but who have, unaided by human guide, been led to the light by reading a copy of the Scriptures, which had fallen, humanly speaking, into their hands.

Perhaps it may interest some of the readers of *Brazilian Missions* if we narrate some of the facts that have come to our personal knowledge as to the good accomplished through the Bibles scattered by a colporteur who made a trip through a part of the interior of Brazil twenty years ago. A Spaniard by the name of Gallart, being employed by one of the Bible societies, left Rio Janeiro in 1868, and travelled through that province, across Sao Paulo, and through the western part of Minas-Geraes; and then, early in 1869, embarked on the San Francisco River, which he descended through the Province of Bahia. His course can to-day be traced by the Bibles that he left wherever he stopped.

* Report for 1888, p. 73.