

the best scholarship and the highest human authorities, with the utmost fidelity to God and His Truth. No compromise of the truth in its simplicity, its purity and its clearness will be made, to gain the co-operation and sanction of any man, or any body of men. But while the great principle of the most scrupulous fidelity to God, is inflexibly adhered to, no suitable means will be omitted to bring forth the book with the greatest weight of human authority, which consistently with that principle can be secured.

From the period of its organization the American Bible Union has enjoyed the signal favor of Heaven. The financial department has been prospered beyond all expectation, and its present prospects are highly encouraging.

During the first short year of its existence, the contributions amounted in cash to more than \$4,000, in pledges to about \$10,000. The second year the cash receipts were more than \$10,000; the unpaid pledges, including those remaining from the preceding amount, nearly \$30,000. Last year the cash exceeded \$16,000; the unpaid pledges \$60,000. The present year we wish to raise the cash receipts to \$25,000, the unpaid pledges to \$100,000.

Although the Bible Union is designed to promote and circulate faithful versions in all languages throughout the world, and, therefore admits of no possible restriction or compromise of its principle, its method of proceeding contemplates the revision of the English Scriptures as its more immediate duty, while at the same time it is prosecuting the revision of the Spanish and French Scriptures; and assisting, as ability is granted, in sustaining and encouraging the most faithful versions in Heathen lands. As it will be impracticable in this brief statement to set forth properly all that has been done and is being done, in all these departments, I refer you for such particulars to our Annual Reports, and confine myself to the revision of the English.

The first twelve months of the Union's existence were principally devoted to preparing and maturing the best possible method of proceeding. Correspondence was held with hundreds of scholars in this country and Europe, and different propositions were submitted for their consideration. Gradually one question after another was carefully examined and permanently settled, until a complete plan was developed and adopted. Every step was accompanied by earnest supplication for the Divine guidance and blessing, and the results thus far seem clearly to evince that such supplication was heard and favorably answered. The following is a summary of the plan adopted.

1. To commence with the New Testament.
2. To apportion it among scholars in Great Britain and America; so as to have the whole Testament primarily revised in both countries.
3. Not to confine the work to two sets of revisors, but if during its progress, other scholars of equal competency offer their services, to assign the more difficult portions again to them; so as to have a third or even a fourth set of revisors upon such parts.
4. As each revision is sent in, to subject it to the inspection of the Committee on versions, and if by them judged worthy, to have copies