

now in our native churches, especially in those countries in which native churches are raised up by several missionary societies, the natives see this point of union. Here is something tangible, something visible, something in which they can bear part; and here is an answer which they naturally make to all such objections as I have alluded to, namely, if we have separate missionary societies, we have one Bible society, the centre and foundation of all true religion.

Another question has often arisen in my own mind, as I doubt not it has in the minds of others, and has been to me an occasion of anxious thought—Are we to reproduce in India, in China, in Africa, all our differences at home? In the early ages of Christianity, that which gave the greatest impetus to the cause was the sight of one community, of which it was said, "See how these Christians love one another," and in which all the members in the same locality formed one church. Is this blessed sight never to be seen in India or in China? My mind has found relief from this anxious thought in the contemplation of the work of this society. I am persuaded a corrective will be found in the free and large diffusion of the word of God. Happily, works of controversy are not translated, the range of Christian literature is very small, and hence the Bible has in the native churches a supreme, nay, almost an exclusive influence; and we may look forward to the time when churches composed of Bible Christians, as they will emphatically be, will outgrow the denominational features in which they were cast, and then we may happily see the Bible Christians of India, forming a genuine national church in India and so in other countries. I remember to have received from Africa an answer to the question, "Do you find that the circumstances of several missionary societies laboring in the same locality has the effect of perplexing the mind of the natives?" "No; the missionaries of all societies are spoken of by the natives as bookmen." The term "bookmen" is only a homely version of the term Bible Christians; and may that designation supersede in the native churches all other denominations! Such, I trust, will always be the blessed effect produced by the operations of this society.

I must, before I conclude, touch on one other point, which appears to me well worthy of consideration. I conceive that the Bible society is bringing home to the church in this country certain reflex truths which are of inestimable value. I will not dilate now upon that which both our noble president and the bishop of London have touched upon, but confine myself to the missionary view of the case. The distribution of the word throughout the whole world brings back a striking testimony that it is the voice of the one Father of all mankind, the voice of the one God before whom all men must bow with adoration. I have asked missionaries from north, south, east and west, "How does this book, when you put it into the hands of the natives in their own language, find acceptance with them?" The answer has invariably been in effect, "It is the very book they want: the moment we put it in their hands we find that they want nothing more simple and nothing more profound."

And we have not only this general testimony to the Bible being the word of God, we have also special confirmations of the truths of the Bible assailed amongst ourselves at the present day. Men in their cloisters, men in their studies, breathing a Christian atmosphere, with minds full of Christian ideas, of which they cannot divest themselves, may presume to say that the facts stated in the first chapter of Genesis are myths, are fables, are the accounts of men who were imperfectly informed. But now, look throughout India. See what the one truth that God made Adam and Eve and put them in Paradise, is doing. Those who are acquainted with India will I am sure, bear witness to the statement, that that truth is producing in India the most wonderful revolution that India has ever yet seen—that it is dissolving those fetters of misery and degradation which for three thousand years have chained down