

none who can help themselves should live at the cost of others, and least of all in spiritual matters,—and moreover that if we loved others we should endeavour at our own cost to circulate among our own poor that Word which is able to make them wise unto salvation.

We have before admitted that in the duty of contributing towards the free circulation of the Bible, Churchmen in the colonial dioceses have not been altogether amiss. Many have given liberally of their means to the funds of the British and Foreign Bible Society. But as a Church we have not publicly recognized the duty of supporting our own Society which also provides for the proper explanation of the Scriptures, and vast numbers of our people have never paid a penny toward this good object in their lives, and never will until they know more about it than heretofore.

If, then, the cheap circulation of the Bible and Prayer-book be the duty of our branch of the Catholic Church, (which we presume none will dispute) the sooner we recognize our duties and responsibilities the better. Let every cheap bible and prayer-book which now reaches us by means of the charity of our more thoughtful brethren in the mother country stimulate our zeal to provide one another to assist in the good work. Co-operation with the great Societies of the mother Church

will perpetuate and draw closer the bond of unity. Let the various Diocesan Church Societies in the colonies establish in every considerable town agencies for the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, the only Church of England Bible and Tract Society, and one whose present wealthy endowments place it far in advance of any sectional or local organization,—and let every member of the Church be encouraged to contribute towards its support. By means of these agencies the smallest contributions could be forwarded to the Society in England; but the annual payment of \$2.60 constitutes the contributor a member of the Foreign District Committee, with the privilege accorded to members of the parent Society, namely, that of obtaining the valuable S. P. C. K. publications at a reduction of twenty per cent on cost price. What an opportunity does this afford to all wishing to distribute bibles, prayer books, catechisms, tracts, reward pictures, educational works in all branches, hymn books, &c., among the poor, or enabling those of the clergy to do so whose straitened circumstances precluded them from so good and faithful a work.

Whilst we hear of munificent gifts and legacies to religious societies among dissenters, let us be provoked to do good work. Surely we should take care to secure this—the only benefit of division.

J. A.

## ILLUSTRATIONS OF SCRIPTURE.—CONTINUED.

'Then said Saul unto his servants, seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and inquire of her. And his servants said unto him, Behold, there is a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Endor.'—1 Samuel. 28, 7.

"As we approached Endor, we could fancy the very walk which Saul took over the eastern shoulder of the hill to reach the witch's abode, skirting little Hermon, on the front slopes of which the Philistines were encamped, in order to reach the village behind them, a long and weary distance from his own army, by the fountain of Jezreel, on the sides of Gilboa. It might be fancy, but the place has a strange, weird-like aspect—a miserable village on the North side of the hill, without a tree or a shrub to relieve the squalor

of its decaying heaps. It is full of caves, and the mud-built hovels are stuck on to the sides of the rocks in clusters, and are, for the most part, a mere continuation and enlargement of the cavern behind, which forms the larger portion of this human den. The inhabitants were the most filthy and ragged we had seen, and as the old crones, startled at the rare apparition of strangers strolling near their holes, came forth and cursed us, a Holman Hunt might have immortalised on canvas the very features of the necromancer of Israel.

"Endor has shrunk from its former extent; and there are many caves around, with crumbling heaps at their mouths, the remains, probably, of what once were other habitations.