

Reference should here be made to the

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

Appended hereto a fuller statement of its operations will be found; but now it might simply be stated that the position which this Society now occupies, after seventy-eight years of chequered experience, is well fitted to awaken in the mind of every friend of the Society the liveliest gratitude for the blessings of the past, and to inspire the most vigorous hopes for the success of the future.

During the year ended March last it distributed almost three million copies of Bibles, Testaments and portions, nearly 10,000 a day, for the working days of a year. The issues since then must have been about two millions, making the total direct issues of the Society from its commencement ninety-six million copies; beside which it has aided in the circulation of sixty-five millions more in various languages and dialects, and in almost every part of the world. How small its beginning! How rapid and vigorous its growth! How limited in its earlier operations! How extensive the field over which these operations are now diffused!

During the first five years of its history the original Society stood alone; but on the 28th of March, 1809, was formed its first Auxiliary, at Reading, in Berkshire, under the Presidency of the Right Rev. Dr. Burgess, Bishop of Salisbury; from that time to the present these valuable institutions have multiplied with great rapidity, until now they number in Great Britain 4,967, in Europe and the Colonies 1,336, so that, including the 429 Branches of the Hibernian Bible Society, the total affiliated Societies now in connection with the Parent institution number 6,795.