

book equal to the Bible—no book that would take the place of the Bible with these people. Consequently, we then commenced to circulate the Scriptures, and have continued to do so in every missionary tour we have made since that time. Here and there, in various parts of the country, we find groups of thoughtful, intelligent men, who are giving much time and attention to the study of the Scriptures, and it is the knowledge of this fact that causes us to believe that before long there will be a speedy and rapid increase of the kingdom of Christ among the people of India. There are large tracts of country with immense towns and large populations, where the voice of the Christian preacher is never heard, where there is no effort put forth to extend the knowledge of the Gospel of Christ; where people are left simply undisturbed in their idolatry. With the present staff of missionaries, and with the present resources of the Church of Christ in India, it is simply impossible to work the field well and effectively that we see all around us; and we know that if we go a little into the regions beyond, we cannot do a tithe of the work that we see is necessary to be done. Here it is that the Bible Society comes in and renders us most efficient and most glorious aid with the system of colportage and with other plans for distributing—broadcast the Scriptures wherever its colporteurs may go. * * * *

"We have abundant evidence that the Bible, which has been circulated in such large numbers! in India, is not only read, but understood by the people. We have heard hundreds of these men, non-Christians, quote passages from the Bible most aptly, which proved that those who read were quick to understand and appreciate, and apply to their own lives and experience the truth as it is in Jesus Christ. Not many months ago, after I had been speaking in a village on the evil of idolatry, one of my hearers went into his house and brought out a copy of the Telugu New Testament; turning to the seventeenth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, he said, 'I have often read this, and my views of the worship of God are contained in this verse,' and he read verse 24, commencing 'God that made the world and all things therein.' He was not what we should have called a Christian man—he was a professing heathen—and yet he had taken the New Testament; he was hoping in God and trusting in Him in accordance with what he had read. About twelve years ago I remember selling a Canarese Bible to a villager in my district who had shown great interest in the truth of Christ. He said, 'I have heard you preach, I believe what you say, but I want to know more about it,' and he asked me to sell him a Bible. 'But,' I said, 'you cannot read,' and I knew there was no member of his family who could read, so I asked him what was the use of his taking the Bible. He replied, 'There are people in my village who can read, and I shall get them to read to me as often as possible.' We sold him the Bible, and we did not see him again for many years. Eighteen months ago I went to the village and I inquired for the Bible. I saw it had been well used, and I asked if it had been read. A little man, a clay potter, came forward and said, 'I have been reading this book regularly to Basappa, and the words are very precious to me.' I examined him, and I found that the book had been well used, and that he had obtained a very correct and true view of the Gospel. A few months ago, when I again went to the village, Basappa asked me to baptize him and his household, and it was my privilege and my pleasure to welcome ten persons—seven adults and three children—by baptism into the Church of Christ; and this was the result of the circulation of the Bible. * * * *

"I am able to give the most unqualified testimony to the energy and thoroughness with which the work of this Society is carried on in the Madras Presidency. The Auxiliary is efficiently worked; fresh efforts are constantly being made to extend the work in all directions, and the statistics we have received will show with what success this has been done. It is fit that the Secretaries, the Committee, and the constituencies of the Society in England should feel encouraged with the success of past efforts. It is meet that we