

# FORTH-NINTH REPORT OF THE

"As on former occasions, the versions of the Society were exhibited in the midst of the great collection of the works of art and industry contained in the Palace itself. On two handsome revolving stands, with the title of the Society on the base, and appropriate texts on the top, the Word of God with open page was to be seen in about 170 languages, and to all who could appreciate it, it was the noblest sight there. It may safely be affirmed that upon nothing else in that vast collection had so much sanctified toil and genius been expended as upon those versions produced by the lifelong labours of Jerome and Origen in the early church, of Wickliffe, Tyndal, Luther, Lefevre, and others at the era of the Reformation; and during the present century, of Morrison and Milne in China; Carey, Marshman, and Ward in India; Judson in Burmah; Moffat in Southern Africa; Bishop Crowther on the banks of the Niger; Van Dyck and his predecessors in Syria; Maunsell in New Zealand; Williams, Hunt, Calvert, and Turner in the South Sea Islands; with a host of others in various parts of the world too numerous to mention.

"It was well that the Bible should be seen in the Palace itself, but the great object of placing it there was to induce men to obtain it and read it. For this purpose a Depot was erected in the grounds of the Exhibition, in an excellent situation, and opened on the 10th of April, with a large stock of Scriptures in about thirty languages, while the walls were covered with striking texts from the Word of God in English, French, German, Italian and Spanish. These latter were a great source of interest and attraction, many who entered the Depot going all round and reading every text, which often led to a desire for the volume from which they were taken. On one occasion, I observed a pale, interesting-looking lady, standing and earnestly reading the texts, Matt. xxi. 22, John xvi. 24, and Matt. xviii. 19, 20, containing such blessed encouragements to prayer. I saw that after reading them she closed her eyes, while the movement of the lips showed that the texts were at once being put into practice. Again they were read, and again the lips moved in prayer, and when I saw the tearful eyes as she moved away and found on addressing her that she was deaf, and that those simple verses had deeply touched her, I had fresh evidence of the power which even a small portion of the Word of God is able to exert.

"I employed in the Depot and in the park, M. Rouget, a French pastor, and five of the Paris Colporteurs; and of these six worthy laborers, five had been once Roman Catholics—themselves converted by that Word of God, which is quick and powerful; none could have been found more fitting to commend it to their French countrymen, and earnestly and faithfully did they perform their work. For a period of seven months the Depot was kept open for the sale of the Scriptures, every day except Sunday, and on that day we confined ourselves to the distribution of portions in the park, which were eagerly and thankfully received. At first the demand was comparatively small, for the vast majority of the people knew nothing of the Bible. But it was most encouraging to find, that the longer the Depot was kept open, the more it became a point of attraction; and the more we distributed Gospels and single Portions,