

REPORT.



THE Establishment of the British and Foreign Bible Society may be viewed as fixing a new era in the history of the world, and, by the dignity and extent of its patronage, the simplicity of its object, the harmonious zeal of its operations, the rapidity and triumphs of its progress, and the splendour of its results, powerfully claiming the admiration and esteem of men. "If, sixteen years ago," said a speaker at one of its late Anniversaries "any man had ventured to stake the credit of his prophetic sagacity on the prediction that so soon after a Society should exist, spending at the rate of *Four Score Thousand Pounds* a year in the distribution of the Holy Scriptures alone, and surrounded by Auxiliary Societies formed upon the same model, he would have been scouted as an enthusiastic visionary; and, while we might have smiled at the good man's sanguine expectations, our smiles would have been followed by a sigh of regret that anticipations so delightful should only be a dream. Yet, the dream has been realized; the vision converted into a reality; and our minds are become so familiar with that which we should then have regarded as Utopian and visionary that we have almost ceased to wonder at its astonishing details."