

than eleven languages and dialects in Melanesia, are supplied by the British and Foreign Bible Society.

In the great island-continent of Australia large supplies of Bibles in the English language are available in the local Depôts of the British and Foreign Bible Society for the use of the different dioceses, which owe their existence to the liberality of the S. P. G., though now independent, with the exception of the Diocese of Perth. For the Chinese immigrants, and the Kánaka labourers in Brisbane from the New Hebrides translations are available; but the sad fact must be recorded, that not one single translation is in circulation in the numerous languages of the aborigines of Australia. In the far-away Sandwich Islands in the Diocese of Honolulu the American Bible Society has translated the Scriptures in the Hawaii language: the fact is gladly recorded that the venerable Society of great Britain is so far indebted to our American brethren.

AMERICA.

In North America the Dioceses of Canada depend upon the British and Foreign Bible Society for their supply of Bibles in the English and French languages. The Dioceses of Canada, with few exceptions, owe their very existence to the S. P. G., and are severally noticed in each Annual Report of that Society, though practically independent. It is not easy to trace out the exact missionary work to the heathen which is done in each Diocese, but it may be averred with confidence that whenever a Canadian Bishop requires translations in the languages of North America, or in the languages of China for the immigrants into that country, he has only to apply to the Depôts of the British and Foreign Bible Society for one or other of their famous translations, and he will get them there, and *get them nowhere else*. In Central America the Dioceses of the West Indian Islands look to the British and Foreign Bible Society for translations in the English, French and Spanish languages, and the Negro dialect of English spoken in Surinam. On the mainland of South America the Bishop of Guiana looks to the stores of the Bible House in Queen Victoria Street for translations in the Karib, Akkaway and Arawak languages.

The Church of England in its entirety makes use of versions of the Scriptures in one hundred and seven languages, and by far the greater portion are supplied, often free of charge, always below cost price, by the Society, whose happy privilege it has been to be permitted to be the Lord's Steward for the great work during the last ninety years. On some translations thousands of pounds have been spent and well spent, for who can estimate the value of a soul saved—saved perhaps by one single verse in the millions of copies issued annually, brought home by the Holy Spirit with power and conviction to the understanding of some doubting, hesitating and humble-minded sinner, saved by Grace. Let us reflect upon the vast void there would be in the last decade of this century in the machinery of conversion, if this new manufactory had not come into existence in the first decade. The world had seen Missionary agencies in past centuries, but the conception had never been entertained of a Bible Society, a great arsenal for forging bloodless, silent and innocent weapons, which at the same time have found themselves to be sharp-cutting, outspoken and invincible. If the mouth of the preacher has converted its thousands, the voiceless volume has saved its tens of thousands, and kept them to the end. *Laus Deo.*