

money membership Law. Indeed, it was when the first clause of Law Third stood alone, and was found to be a shadow merely of something substantial aimed at, that seeing its unreality he endeavoured to give it substance; and in order to secure a higher and more stable, more conservative, and better ascertained constituency, proposed the Life Membership clause, which now forms part of Law Third. How his views became changed, will appear later on in these Letters. But meanwhile the hope may be expressed that the Bible Society—great in its work and noble in its aim—will, by and by, upon the more acceptable proposal of some other one of its friends do away with these objectionable Laws III and V, which for the sake of distinctness may be here, once for all, produced:

III. All persons subscribing two dollars or upwards, per annum, shall be members of this Society; or forty dollars at one time, shall be members for life.

V. No lay member of the Society shall be eligible as a member of the Committee unless he be a *life* member, or pay an annual subscription of at least four dollars.

And will adopt in lieu of them something like this one—once proposed and rejected, but yet perhaps to receive the kinder, and more patient consideration of its Committee—as the Law of Membership of the Bible Society:

“That friends of Bible circulation who are favorable to the objects of this Society, and to its Rules and Regulations, and who shall in any way aid in the promotion of its objects, shall be members.”

But it has already failed of that priority which one could have desired it, as the more prominent Society, to have secured.

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## LETTER II.

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It was by the report of a special Committee that the question now brought under review first came before the Bible Committee, and that report is here recited:—

“The gentlemen appointed by the Bible Society, the Tract Society, and the Canada Foreign Missionary Society, to consider and report upon such change in the mode of obtaining funds for these Societies as might