

access could be gained." Especially does the American Society aid in Bible distribution throughout the South American States, through China, Corea, and Japan, and among the Micronesian islands of the Pacific. Half a million copies, in various foreign tongues, were sent abroad last year by its efforts, and each year the total grows larger.

Such is the gospel work of the printing-press as represented by two organized societies for Bible distribution. So much these two Christian agencies are accomplishing toward the world-wide circulating of Christ's gospel. Three hundred and sixty-three versions of the Scriptures in two hundred and eighty-seven languages have been made through the efforts, principally, of the British Society—and still there remain hundreds of languages and dialects into which the Bible has never been translated. Six hundred thousand dollars, in round numbers, is annually expended by the American Society, and twice as much by the British Society—yet neither society has more than a fraction of what money it could profitably use. Protestant Christendom in this and other ways is doing much to scatter knowledge of the word; yet only a small part is being done of what would be practicable if Protestant Christians who have found for themselves that the Bible is the book of God, would give as they might of their own earthly treasures to support these faithful societies for Bible distributing. (*The Sunday School Times.*)

OUR OBLIGATIONS TO THE GOSPEL.

From an Address in Boston, by the Rev. Dr. Storrs.

One of our obligations to this work of missions is the obligation of gratitude for a similar work performed for our fathers by missionaries of the gospel. The coming of St. Augustine and his monks into Saxon England was the turning point of English and American development. I know it seems as if they brought a small force, and the skeptics are never tired of declaiming against the fanaticism which finds in that small force any essential element in power in the vast development that has followed. But all the forces in the universe which are of the first rank are invisible. No man ever saw light; he sees the effect of it. But whether it be an undulation or whether it be an ethereal fluid is a matter of dispute among scientists to this day. No man ever saw lightning; the child thinks he sees it when he sees the blazing zig-zag in the air, but it is only the fiery edges of the cloud through which the lightning has burst which are revealed to his eye, and that mysterious and mighty power, subtle and overwhelming, is as really invisible in the thunder-storm as it is when it paces the wire and articulates your message a thousand miles away. No man ever saw the power of life, though he has it within himself and is not dependent for his knowledge of it upon outward sources; conscious of that power he ever searches for its root and never finds it, not coming to those ultimate forces of life by which he acts and moves and thinks and is. No man ever saw the power of gravitation, that mighty force which holds the universe together, reaching from the shell on the beach to the farthest nebula which leaves its almost imperceptible stain upon the azure, so remote that no arithmetic can count the distance. Here is this immense force extending from end to end of the creation, to the infinitely little, to the infinitely vast, and no man sees it, though he feels it upon himself and sees the effect of it upon all matter. So it is in the social and the political world; the mightiest forces are the most secret. The universe stands where he who wrote the Epistle to the Hebrews said it stood, before telescopes were thought of, before the structure of the universe was understood; it stands upon the word of God's power. And the astronomer rushes from moon to planet, from planet to sun, from sun to star, and tries to find the mighty centre on which