

REPORT.

Your Committee would commence this year's Report with the admirable and oft-repeated saying of Chillingworth, "The Bible—I say the Bible only—is the religion of Protestants." To which may be added the following emphatic words, from the same distinguished authority:—"Whatsoever else they believe besides it, and the plain, irrefragable, indubitable consequences of it, well may they hold it as a matter of opinion; but as a matter of faith and religion, neither can they, with coherence to their own grounds, believe it themselves, nor require the belief of it of others, without most high and most schismatical presumption.... Propose me anything out of this Book, and require whether I believe it or no, and seem it never so incomprehensible to human reason, I will subscribe it with hand and heart, as knowing no demonstration can be stronger than this:—God hath said so; therefore it is true."

"To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because they have no light in them."

Alas! many are now speaking not according to this word, but in opposition to it.

"Be astonished, O ye heavens, at this, and be horribly afraid, be ye very desolate, saith the Lord. For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water." Many instead of drinking of the "pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb," are seeking to quench their thirst out of the muddy stream of tradition—polluted by poisonous ingredients—derived from the often wild and dreamy speculations of the so-called Fathers of the church, or the no less (not seldom more) noxious absurdities and lying vanities—papistic, ritualistic, and rationalistic, of later times.

What a duty devolves upon "all who love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity," to be resolute and indefatigable in their efforts to aid in distributing the Bible (as it is published by our great parent institution, the British and Foreign Bible