

will tend to show that it has not failed to take its part in supplying the spiritual wants of these eventful times. Although the efforts of other Societies of more recent foundation have helped to bear some of the burdens which would otherwise have pressed upon this, the oldest in connection with the Church, it has found, and is still likely to find, ample materials for the exercise of its charity, and the employment of the means committed by benevolent contributors to its care. Those members who are accustomed to attend the monthly meetings, between each October and July inclusive, need not to be reminded of the number and variety of applications arriving from all parts of the world, nor of the readiness with which the Society holds out its hand to afford the required aid. The friends and members, also, who reside at a distance from London, will have seen, from time to time, by the printed monthly statements, accounts of the manner in which requests from bishops and pastors in the Colonies, and parochial Clergymen engaged in necessitous districts at home, have been met by the Standing Committee and by the Board.

#### Issues of Publications.

The following return of the Society's issues of Bibles, Prayer Books, Books and Tracts, from April, 1859, to April, 1860, will show a larger amount of circulation than has ever been attained by the Society:—

Bibles .....	133,974
New Testaments .....	64,994
Common Prayers .....	316,237
Bound Books .....	1,700,489
Tracts, &c. ....	3,904,947
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>6,120,641</b>

In this return, it is to be observed, the several cards &c., in each packet, are separately counted; in former years the packets were estimated as so many single publications. The total issue of 1859-60 would, according to that mode of reckoning, have been 5,018,053, showing an increase of 113,767 over the issues of 1858-9.

#### Tract Committee, and Committee of General Literature and Education.

The several committees have continued their labours with activity since the publication of the last annual report. Many new tracts have been furnished. The want of suitable tracts in large type for aged eyes had been long felt; and special attention has of late been paid to this subject.

During the last year the list of works combining amusement with instruction has received a considerable accession, under the care and superintendence of the Committee of General Literature and Education. Several sheets and cards, with coloured illustrations, for rewards in schools, and for cottage walls, have been adopted. In the year 1859 the committee deemed it desirable to put forth an almanac, for children. The amount of circulation of the children's almanac for the year 1859, and 1860, was very encouraging; nor has this cheap little annual been found to interfere with "The Churelian's Almanac," the sale of which has gone on increasing each year from the date of its commencement in the year of our Lord 1839.

#### Foreign Translation Committee.

The following is a short statement of the proceedings of the Foreign Translation Committee since its appointment in the year 1834:—

The Committee have issued translations of the Bible in French, Italian, Dutch, German, Spanish, and Arabic. The New Testament has been published in Maltese, Polish, and Oghiba. The Psalter in Arabic, and Triglot Psalters, in French, English and German, and in Italian, English and

Spanish, have been for some time in circulation: and a Greek Psalter, from the Septuagint, has been added to the catalogue. The Gospel according to St Matthew in the language of the Zealand, and the Gospels, and part of the Acts, together with a portion of the Book of Genesis, in the language of the Arawak Indians, have been published. A translation of the Acts of the Apostles, in the language of the Zulu Kafirs, has been printed at the request of the Bishop of Natal. The New Testament in Coptic and Arabic has been published. The Prayer Book has been produced in French, Dutch, German, Danish, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Modern Greek, Modern Armenian, Maltese, Arabic, Turkish, Amharic, New Zealand, Oghiba, Mancey, and two distinct dialects of the Cree language (North American Indian); and the "Orders for Morning and Evening Prayer," in the Susu language, have been issued for the immediate use of the newly established Mission on the river Pongas, in Western Africa.

#### Finance Committee.

Attention was called in the last two annual reports to the arrangement of the catalogues of publications, and the prices of books, tracts, &c. All the catalogues are now printed in the Svo. form; this being considered the most convenient mode for general distribution. These catalogues also serve for transmitting applications from members and District Committees.

Catalogue A contains Bibles, New Testaments, Common Prayers, &c.

" B " Tracts, &c.

" C " Books, Maps, Sheets, &c.

" D " Foreign Publications (not including Bibles, &c.)

" E " Works originally issued by other Publishers, but sold at the Society's Depositories.

It has been deemed right by the Finance Committee to give to the District Committees an increased allowance on the publications of the Society enumerated in catalogues B, C, and D. It is the custom of publishers and wholesale booksellers to give, in many cases, 13 books as 12, or 25 as 24; but it has been thought better and more convenient to give, instead of this, a further discount of 5 per cent. in addition to the present allowance. The publications will therefore be invoiced, as heretofore, at 25 per cent. below the published prices; and 15 per cent. will be deducted if the account be settled within fourteen days after it has been delivered.

It is hoped that this new arrangement will induce increased activity in promoting the distribution of the Society's works; and particularly, that efforts will be used to extend the sales to the general public. There is reason to think that many of the publications would command a ready sale if properly exhibited and brought under notice.

An alteration has been made in the published prices of some of the works of catalogue C, which of course involves a corresponding alteration in the prices charged to members.

#### IRELAND AND SCOTLAND.

The Society has recently bestowed much attention on the subject of efforts for Ireland, and the importance of taking steps for a wider circulation of Bibles, Prayer Books, books and tracts in that country.

With this view, and with special reference to the religious movement in the North of Ireland, communication was made in the autumn of 1859 to the Lord Bishop of Down and Connor,

who in a letter dated Palace, Holywood, Belfast, October 13, 1859, wrote as follows:—

"In reply to your letter of the 11th, I beg to say that a small grant of Prayer Books would be most acceptable at present, when so many are attending all the services of our Church, who never attended before. My confirmations in Belfast will, I am sure, when concluded, show the number of young persons confirmed as more than four times the usual annual average. I should also be most thankful for a few books to form a lending library in one or two parishes, as one of my clergy mentioned to me lately, when visiting a remote country parish, that the young men in the parish asked him for books to read during the winter evenings. Before this, they would have spent their evenings in the public houses."

The Board agreed to place books to the value of £10 at the Bishop's discretion, and to intimate that more would be sent if he should desire them.

The Dean of Down having opened a lending library in the cathedral town of Downpatrick, and wishing to turn the present religious feeling in Ireland to good account, requested a grant of books towards a lending library in the cathedral town of Downpatrick.

The books requested were granted.

The Board agreed at the meeting in December, 1859,— "That it be referred to the Standing Committee to consider whether some further steps might not be taken, by the appointment of an Organizing Secretary, or otherwise, for making the objects and ends of the Society better known in Ireland."

With regard to this reference, the Standing Committee reported, in February, 1860, that having conferred with the Finance Committee, they were not prepared to recommend the appointment of an Organizing Secretary for Ireland; that communications had been made to the Dublin Society for discountenancing vice and promoting the knowledge and practice of the christian religion, on the subject of the reference, and that grants of books and tracts for parishes in Ireland would be recommended in all cases sanctioned by the several Dioceses.

At the meeting in July, 1860, a letter was read from the Rev. Alexander Irvine, in the names of his Grace the Archbishop of Armagh, and the Lord Bishop of Derry, on the subject of communications made to those prelates by the Standing Committee respecting the reference from the Board, as to efforts for Ireland. Both the Archbishop and Bishop recommended the Society to make grants of books for the formation of lending libraries to such of the Clergy in Ireland as would collect and forward to the Society a certain amount of contributions, accompanied with recommendations from their respective Dioceses.

A letter was read from the Archdeacon of Dublin, dated May 23, 1860, referring to the efforts of the Association in Dublin for discountenancing vice and promoting christian knowledge. It was added that letters from several of the Bishops in Ireland, as well as from other persons, on the subject of the reference, had been received and considered.

The following report was read to the meeting:—

"The Standing Committee beg leave to report that they have taken into their careful consideration the following reference made to them by the Board at the General Meeting on Tuesday, December 6, 1859:—

"That it be referred to the Standing Committee to consider whether some further steps might not be taken, by the appointment of an Organizing Secretary, or otherwise, for making the objects and ends of the Society better known in Ireland."