

sible to furnish in these pages such an epitome of the work of the National Bible Society of Scotland as would do justice to its dimensions and efficiency; its own report must be consulted by those who desire to become acquainted with its enlarging and useful operations. It may, however, be observed, that the past year maintained the steady progress which has been hitherto experienced. In finance, no less than in circulation, there was a very decided increase as compared with former periods. The range of foreign operations shows considerable growth, and special prominence is given to the work in Spain, and to the very successful efforts adopted during the late Franco-German war. In all these circumstances your Committee see cause for cordial congratulation."

THE HIBERNIAN BIBLE SOCIETY.—"It is well known that the wants of Ireland with regard to the supply of the Scriptures are liberally met by the Hibernian Bible Society, whose operations, spread over more than half a century, have proved an inestimable blessing to the country. This Society is modelled after the pattern of your own, and, by the catholic basis on which it rests, invites the sympathy and aid of all Christian people who recognize the duty of disseminating the Word of God. It seeks to ramify its organization in every district, and by local efforts to draw forth the interest and liberality of the Protestant community in favour of the great and important object at which it aims. If in time past the necessity of vigorous measures for diffusing the Scriptures was admitted, the necessity has lost none of its force in view of the changes which modern legislation has introduced in Ireland. It affords your Committee much gratification to observe that the Hibernian Bible Society holds on its way with unabated activity and success; and it is not apprehended that its resources will be crippled by the enlarged demands on Irish liberality which the altered position of the Protestant Church will involve. Increased rather than diminished attention should now be given to the circulation of the Bible, for there is no weapon so potent with which to combat the errors of Popery. The Hibernian Bible Society in its last report reviews a year of very encouraging labour. The number of copies issued was 79,392, being less by 4,000 than the circulation of the previous year. It is, however, a pleasing circumstance that, notwithstanding this falling-off, there was a considerable increase in the sale of complete Bibles. The Society has now disseminated 3,668,711 copies of the Scriptures—a noble proof of the zeal and fidelity with which its affairs have been administered."

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY.—"It affords your Board great pleasure to view the wonderful efforts which year after year are put forth by this powerful Society. This year her income is nearly \$700,000. Volumes issued, 1,231,852. True to her home work, she vigilantly cares for and abundantly supplies the wants of her rapidly increasing population, following them as they seek new homes on the shores of the Pacific, or in the prairies of the West; while, ex-