

consequent upon their overthrow, the Bible would never have been admitted at all.

What a wide door was opened for the circulation of the Scriptures by the Franco-German war! With what zeal and success did the agents and colporteurs of the Bible Society labour, during this sad period of strife and bloodshed, among the soldiers of both armies, and under circumstances, too, which disposed many a weary soul to listen eagerly to the Gospel message, and to receive with delight and gratitude the precious volume in which it was contained.

Then as to those countries which have hitherto been almost altogether closed against the Bible. Look at Italy! Who a few years ago would have dreamt of an Italian Bible Society holding its anniversary meeting in Rome itself? And yet so it is, and under its auspices the first efforts are being made to send out the Scriptures throughout the length and breadth of Italy. "May God grant" (to use the words of a speaker at a late meeting of the Parent Society) "that this work may be carried on both wisely and prosperously! so that thousands of Italians who have hitherto lived in error or in utter disregard of God's truth, may be led to acknowledge Christ as the *only Head of the Church*, and the Bible as the *only infallible record of Divine Truth*."

I shall not detain you by any further references to the progress of the Bible Society's work in foreign countries, because I know that full and interesting details on this head will be given in the Report; suffice it to mention one significant fact, also alluded to in the Report, as indicative of the progress of the work, viz., that since the establishment of the British and Foreign Bible Society the number of languages and dialects into which God's word is translated has been raised from fifty to two hundred and two, while the number of versions of the Scriptures, in whole or in part, (there being sometimes more than one version in the same language) the preparation of which has been promoted, directly or indirectly, by the British and Foreign Bible Society, now amounts to two hundred and fifty! In our own land, the Upper Canada Bible Society is doing its work faithfully, and we have reason to thank God that the Branches which we reported last year as having been established in the more distant parts of the Dominion have taken root, and are beginning to bear fruit; that at New Westminster, in British Columbia, having already sent sixty dollars to be applied in equal proportions to the Parent Society and the Upper Canada Bible Society.

You will find that the Report bears favourable testimony to the energy and success with which our agents and colporteurs have conducted their labours in our own Province, and you will be glad to hear that a colporteur has also been engaged to distribute Bibles and Testaments in Manitoba, and a similar agency it is hoped will soon be employed in British Columbia.

And now there is just one more matter to which I shall allude before I sit down, and that is the income of the Society. You will learn from the refer-