

The same thing was going on in Mexico. A great work of Reformation was going on there, and this work was due entirely to the Bible and not to any propagandism from without. One of the ablest and most respected priests in Mexico became convinced of the errors of the Church of Rome simply by his study of the Bible. A reformed Church grew up, mainly through his efforts. Bishop Riley, the first Bishop of that Church, had carried his life in his hand. He related that at a service he held he announced that he should be glad if any one present would take a Spanish Bible. After service a man came up to him wrapped in a large Spanish cloak and asked for one. He said he came to the service for a very different purpose; he came to take his (Bishop Riley's) life. He then showed him a large knife with which he had intended to stab him as he came down the steps. He went and studied the Bible, and six weeks later said to the Bishop, "I hope this Bible has been blest to the salvation of my soul. I hope God has touched my heart. I have been leading a very bad life, amongst desperate companions. I must go back and tell them the truth that has been made a blessing to me—I must go and tell them of the Saviour I have found." The Bishop said, "I cannot trust you yet, you are too young a convert. Wait until you are more confirmed in the faith before you presume to become a missionary to others." For a time the man became a pupil under Bishop Riley. At last the desire became so strong that he could not stay any longer, so he went to talk to the wretched men who had been his companions in sin. They became, however, very bitter against him, persecuted him, and stoned him almost to death. At last one man came forward to dash a huge stone against his head, when from amongst the people standing around a little girl who had been brought up in a Protestant school saved the man's life by flinging herself on his body, so that the ruffian desisted.

The Bible has not lost any of its power, as people would persuade them, but had all the power which it had in the early days of the Reformation, and God was using it as His instrument for bringing other nations out of darkness into His marvellous light. This Society bound together all Christian men, all Protestant men, as one, in spite of all their differences—which might sometimes be important differences. He was not going to minimize differences, because he thought that to do so was a very unreal way of speaking. They had their convictions and must act upon them. But they must feel all those mere external differences of Church order and government, of rites and ceremonies, which kept men asunder, were but as dust in the balance compared with that one great faith in which they were all united; the one Lord, who had redeemed them, and the one God and Father whom they all alike worshipped and adored. These were the grounds upon which he ventured to press the claims of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

### A NEW AGENCY FOR EGYPT AND SYRIA.

The Committee have for some time been anxiously watching the course of events in the East, and preparing, whenever an opening appeared, promptly to take measures for a more complete occupation than has hitherto been possible of that portion of the vast regions inhabited by Arabic-speaking populations, which stretches from Syria in the east to Egypt in the west and Abyssinia and the Soudan in the south. They feel that the time for this onward step has now come. Other Christian Missionary Societies are already making redoubled efforts to spread the truth in Egypt, and the Bible Society, as aforetime, will be at their side and effectually co-operate with them—both preparing the way for and following their efforts, as has been the case in other mission fields. The following resolution was unanimously adopted at the meeting of the Committee on December 6th:—"Resolved, that, in the opinion of the Committee, the time has now arrived for the establishment of a separate agency for Egypt, Arabia, Cyprus, Palestine,