

to hear, the vastness of the field which, as a joint Agent of the Bible Society and the Missionary Society, I have to work in. From the nearest mission in Turkey in Asia, which is at Mardin, to the Punjaub, for the thirteen years that I was in Persia up to the last two years, I was the only clergyman of any evangelical denomination in a district of 800,000 square miles; and just at the time when Mr. Watt came, we were able to set apart for him four colporteurs for the work of the Bible Society in this district. We have now taken up the city of Baghdad, as a second station of the Persia mission. When I was there a little more than twelve months ago I left two young men in Baghdad who are carrying on a Bible Agency there. One of them is an Armenian, the other is a Nestorian Christian, and they have been labouring ever since without any European superintendent."

The Rev. Dr. GOULD, Secretary of the National Bible Society of Scotland, said:—"I fasten especially on one clause in the resolution. At the outset of it the Society rejoices to offer a cordial welcome to the representatives of kindred institutions. It is in that character that I appear before you to-day, and accordingly my first duty is to fulfil the commission which I have received from the Directors of the National Bible Society of Scotland, in whose name I have the honour of appearing among you and addressing you. They charged me to express to you their grateful acknowledgments for the friendly co-operation that for many years has subsisted between the two Societies, and their earnest desire for the continuance and increase of the brotherly feeling with which the Directors of both have laboured together for the advancement of their common object—the diffusion of the Word of Life. * * *

"It is not out of place to remind you that a great result has been attained in this blessed and brotherly co-operation between the Bible Societies in England and Scotland. * * *

"There are, it is true, differences between your Society and ours, differences in our administration and practical working, but no such difference as to afford the slightest excuse for antagonism or opposition. On the contrary, in the main principles by which you are guided, in the noble simplicity of your purpose and object, in the devout and religious spirit which your reports and proceedings breathe, there are grounds on which we can rejoice with you in your joy, and any check to your progress would occasion north of the Tweed a deep pang of unfeigned regret.

"Our own history within recent years is perhaps the most cogent argument for united action—a happy illustration of the benefits resulting from it. There was one leading Bible Society in Scotland, the Edinburgh Bible Society. But there were several other Societies. The strength of the Christian community for the spread of the Bible was divided and broken. We effected a union in 1861. The result has been that instead of weak, provincial and denominational Societies, we have one great national Society for Scotland, which now ranks as the third Bible Society in the world, though it follows yours at a long interval.

"The important question of prices needs constant adjustment, and renders harmony among the great Societies supremely desirable. It may seem a paradox, but it is a truth, a truth so certain as to amount almost to a truism, that you can circulate the Scriptures more extensively by sale than by gift—by the exaction of a price than by gratuitous distribution. I speak of the work prosecuted on a wide scale, and continued for a succession of years. Give away twenty Bibles, a shilling in cost, and your circulation is twenty. Sell them at half-price, and you have a sum on hand for the circulation of double the number at the same rate. To avoid the mischief of underselling each other, and to secure a far higher object, a thorough understanding for what regions and countries special reductions should be made, it is well that every encouragement should be given to reciprocal confidence and harmonious action among our leading Bible Societies.

"The records of Bible Societies teem with evidence of souls converted,