

civilizing of all books in its effects upon communities among whom it is circulated ; but because it is the Word of God, the Sword of the Spirit by which He overcomes His enemies : and because it is with this same Word of Truth that He begets them again as His own children to His own glory. Moreover, it is still the instrument of the Spirit in making them holy after they are begotten :—"Sanctify them through Thy truth ; Thy word is truth." Here then is the great end of the Bible Society : the glory of God in the salvation and sanctification of men. Surely then we may well rejoice and look forward with confidence when God is blessing the Bibles, already circulated, to this great end in such a marked way as he has been doing in our own nation for the past two years. Perhaps in no previous revival since that in the days of Nehemiah, has the power of God's written word been so much recognised. The people then gathered themselves together as one man into the street, and asked Ezra "to bring *the book* of the law;" and he read therein, and "the ears of all the people were attentive unto *the book* of the law," and so Ezra, Jeshua, &c., and the Levites "read in *the book* in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense and caused them to understand the reading" and Nehemiah and Ezra and the Levites "taught the people." So also at the present time, teaching in the Word seems to be both more sought after by the people, and more thought of by the evangelists whom God has been honouring, than preaching in the ordinary sense of the word. This has been a marked feature with Mr. Moody for the past two years, and in his letter to young converts, which he has lately sent to England, and which we give at page 19, we still find him recommending them above all things to feed upon the sincere milk of the Word. That man of faith, Mr. Müller, too, in addressing ministers on holiness, the need of which, thank God, is pressing itself upon Christians in all Churches, insists upon the paramount importance of the study of God's Word. This address also we give in this number at page 20. But not only are our hearts refreshed by "good news from a far country ;" we have also heard of showers of blessing in Quebec, and of more than droppings at Simcoe, Collingwood and other places, and we trust that these are harbingers of abundant showers all over our land. Here too we find the same feature, perhaps even more marked. There has been no "powerful preaching," and we happen to know that Mr. Crombie was both comforted and gratified when, at an Evangelical Alliance meeting in Toronto, Colonel Burton, speaking on Psalm cxxxviii, 2, pointed out that in Quebec God had magnified His own Word and not man, and we doubt not Mr. Cole felt the same when he heard of the remark. Looking at these things then, is not every worker in the Bible cause warranted in looking forward to a happy year, even though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be in the vines, in a financial sense. But whilst the good news which we have been receiving and the good news we are anticipating, will make our joy, in a degree, at least, independent of finances, it should not make us indifferent about them.