

read the book, neither to look thereon," and was cheered by the words of "one of the elders," who said unto him, "Weep not; behold the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the root of David, hath prevailed to open the book and to loose the seven seals thereof," how often has the same gracious and all-powerful Saviour—the Lion of the tribe of Juda, given the Book—the Bible, the *whole* and *unsealed* Bible, to many nations, kindreds, tongues and people. When the Pentecostal outpouring took place, when the apostles and disciples were in prayer in Jerusalem—"they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." "Devout men out of every nation under heaven" were present, and glorified God when they heard the apostles speak the word of God in their own tongues wherein they were born. How extensively have the Scriptures been disseminated since that memorable day. In how many languages is God's holy word now read? In more than tenfold the number of countries represented on the day of Pentecost. Then and now the work is of God. The miraculous utterances at Jerusalem, and the translations that now find their way to every land, are equally the gift of our Heavenly Father. As an Auxiliary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, we rejoice in witnessing the honour which God continues to bestow upon her as His chief instrument in translating, and distributing to all, His own precious volume. Never were the labours of the Parent Society more abundant, important, and encouraging than at present; never were there so many open doors, or less restriction placed upon her efforts, or upon her agency. Upon this point we cannot do better than here transcribe a few sentences from the last published report of the British and Foreign Bible Society, as follows:—"Whatever moral judgment posterity may pronounce on the transactions which have disturbed and modified the condition of Europe during the last decade, their effect has been uniformly favourable to the circulation of the Holy Scriptures. The area of practicable labour has been progressively enlarged. Prejudices and interdicts which frowned defiance at the Bible, and rebuked its approach as an offence and intolerable innovation, have disappeared in a manner which clearly indicates the presence and power of an overruling Providence that bends human purposes to its own wise and beneficent designs. This day the Society has a measure of liberty it never previously possessed, inasmuch as it may be announced that there is no part of Europe from which its operations are formally and authoritatively excluded. The age for enacting penal laws against the 'free course' of the Bible is happily closed, and few statesmen would be bold enough to accept the odious and thankless task of endeavouring to revive it. It is singularly instructive to glance back for a few years, and mark how the narrow and selfish policy of those who would deny the Scriptures to the people has been defeated, and how nations have emerged from the crushing and demoralising tyranny which trampled upon the principle of man's personal responsibility to God."