

gressive advancement, or the noble proportions which it has reached, than by re-publishing a comparative statement given in its last report :

“ The nucleus of the Society was seen in a band of men, hopeful and compact, it is true, but still a *little* band of men whose hearts God had touched ; now it gathers around its standard a goodly and powerful confederation, drawing its supporters from all ranks of society, and from all sections of the Church. At the commencement of the Society, the Scriptures were extant in some 48 or 50 vernacular languages and dialects ; now, by its instrumentality, direct or indirect, these translations have been multiplied into 154, rendering the word of God into languages spoken by six hundred millions of the human race. During the first four years of the Society's operations, the average *annual* circulation was but 20,000, now that circulation has reached the stupendous total of a million and a half. In the earlier periods of the Society, a great thing had been achieved when a few editions had been put to press ; at the present time there are not less than 2,500,000 copies, in 33 different languages, in the course of publication. At first the annual receipts fell below £1,000, now they verge towards £140,000. In 1804 it stood isolated and alone ; in 1857, it finds itself stimulated and cheered by the liberal co-operation of 4,136 Auxiliaries, Branches and Associations, establishing a link of connection that almost encircles the Globe.”

The circulation from 1st April, 1856, to 31st March, 1857, 1,517,858, making the total issues of the Society 32,381,759.

The entire receipts for the year, including £993 2s. 4d. added to the Chinese Testament Fund, amounted to £138,749 17s. 3d., the entire expenditure to £138,985 3s. 5d.

CONCLUSION.

In closing our report we would express the hope that the supporters of the Bible Society will continue to evince their high value of the Book which it seeks to circulate, by still greater liberality, and more fervent prayer. It is pleasing to find that although there is only a small balance in the Treasurer's