

GIBRALTAR.—A fresh effort is about to be made to circulate the Scriptures in Gibraltar. The Society has voted the sum of £100 towards this object.

MALTA.—The translation of the Acts of the Apostles into Maltese has just left the press. A translation of the Psalms into the Nama language, spoken by a Hottentot tribe in South Africa, is being printed at the Cape.

Miscellaneous.

THE MOABITE STONE.

The following is a good review of Dr. C. D. Ginsbury's work on the Moabite Stone :—

This is the first and as yet the only independent work on the Moabite Stone which has been given to the English public. Several learned and able papers have, indeed, appeared on the subject in our Quarterly Reviews and Magazines—but these, from their necessary limitations as to size and character, cannot rank as complete treatises. The book before us, on the contrary, aims at meeting the wants alike of the philologist, the antiquarian, and the merely literary reader. It is called a second edition, but is, in fact, the only one that has ever been fairly accessible to the public. The former edition was privately printed, and circulated gratuitously among the members of the British Association, but was “withdrawn from the market” after a very short opportunity for acquiring it had been allowed. This was for private reasons, not because, as is carefully explained in the Preface to this edition, the author had seen reason to alter his mind on any important particular, much less had begun to have his doubts about the genuineness of the Stone itself.

The scholarship of the individual who should call that genuineness into question is, as Dr. Ginsbury says, “not worth a day's purchase.” The Stone is beyond all doubt of primary importance to the history and language of the Old Testament. It is a chronicle of wars and triumphs put on record by Mesha, King of Moab, who revolted from Jehoram, the son of Ahab, according to II. Kings iii.; and goes on to state also the various buildings and works of public utility which he caused to be executed after he had delivered his native land from the tyranny of the Israelites. It will thus bear date about B.C. 900. It supplements in a very remarkable way the fragmentary and widely separated notices of Moab found in the Old Testament, enabling us, e.g., to offer an explanation of the strange announcement made II. Kings iii. 27, that after the King of Moab found the allied Kings of Judah, Israel, and Edom too strong for him, he “offered his eldest son for a burnt offering;” that there was “great indignation in Israel,” and “they departed from him.” The inscription of Mesha renders it evident that the allies, though successful in the early part of the campaign, failed in the sequel. The Moabites, perhaps roused to frenzy by their King's act of desperation, seem to have again sallied forth from their city, and driven the invaders away. The inscription of Mesha gives a clear notion of the further progress of the war, which ended in the recovery by the Moabites not only of complete independence, but also of the whole district north of the Arnon, which had been wrested from the Amorites in the days of Moses by the transjordanic tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half tribe of Manasseh, and a little earlier had been wrested by the Amorites from the Moabites. Thus Mesha restored the kingdom of Moab to the ancient limits and splendour which it had enjoyed