

the future. I therefore call first upon that old and trusted servant of longest standing we have, Mr. Millard, from Vienna.

Mr. EDWARD MILLARD : My Lord, this is a year of jubilee. I think that it is just fifty years ago since the continental agency of this Society arose ; and I think there devolves upon me an honour, of which I feel entirely unworthy, of being the oldest foreign Agent of the Bible Society. The consequence is this, that I remember many of the beginnings of the Society—not quite the first beginning. Still, I remember some of the beginnings. I have seen the beginning of colportage in connection with the work of this Society. When I went out in the year 1847 our venerable Agent Dr. Pinkerton, then working in Germany, did not see his way to employ this agency. I suppose the time was not come ; but the Committee, remembering what the success of the Society had been in Belgium and Holland, wished to try the thing in Germany, and sent me there to try to begin the work of colportage. At that time there was a law forbidding the hawking of books in Germany, and I had to begin with two men who went about, being qualified as commercial travellers, and they did a good work. Then came the year 1848, the year of revolution. It opened the Government's eyes, and in the beginning of 1849 there was an order issued by the Government of Berlin, opening up the way of colportage. Colporteur has been added to colporteur, until I think there are now some 300 in the central parts of Europe ; men, humble and simple in their work, but invaluable in what they effect. If I add to the sixty colporteurs engaged in my agency (which is the Austrian) another sixty employed by my dear friend Mr. Davies of Berlin, and sixty more by Mr. Monod, there are 180 already. Then in Italy and Spain, Belgium and Holland, I think there would be in round numbers 300 men engaged as colporteurs by this Society, a class of workers, I think, pretty well equal to those of any of our great religious or missionary institutions now active in England.

I remember the beginning of some of the Society's versions. Just imagine, if it be possible, that by some magic influence all the Bibles in this happy land vanished all at once—no Bible in the closet, no Bible in the family, no Bible in the pulpit. Well, it is a thing you cannot realize, but it is just the thing that we find abroad on the Continent. That is just the state in which we find the people. Not altogether though : if your Bibles were all gone to-day, you would be sure in a few days to have plenty again. I have heard that they can print a Bible in twenty-four hours in this country at the Oxford Press. But the difficulty for us is that not only are there no Bibles to read, but there are no Bibles translated. There is no translation in many countries. It has been my happiness to see the beginning of the translation of the Bible into the Servian, the Slavonian, and other languages—not that the Bible is already fully completed in them yet, but we are still engaged in this great and blessed work. Oh ! what a great thing it is that we are able in all these languages, in which formerly the Word of God was utterly unknown, to give it to the people in their own mother tongue !

I have seen the beginning of the first Russ Bible, and I will take the liberty of mentioning this to illustrate how very kind and gracious God is, in His providence, guiding the agencies of this great institution. Mr. Nicolson at St. Petersburg, looking at the vast number of Jews, proposed to print an edition of the Russ Old Testament. "Well," said I, "if we print a Russ Bible for the Jews, why not print a Russ Bible for Christians ?" There had never been a complete Russ Bible, but there had been portions. I was fully aware of the circumstance that I should not be allowed to import these Russ Bibles into Russia : they did not allow any Bibles to be imported except those printed by their own Synod. But I thought as a great many Russians came into Germany and other parts of Europe, we might perhaps supply Bibles to them there. When I proposed this, I did not exactly know what I was doing, but God knew, and it was scarcely two months after I had completed the first edition that the Turko-Russian war broke out ; and if I was not allowed to send these ten thousand Bibles into Russia, the Russians came and fetched