

Colportage in India, the total net receipts have amounted to £222,320 8s. 11d.

The total net payments of the year have amounted to £211,251 16s. 5d.

The Society is under engagements to the extent of £122,800 13s. 1d.

The issues of the Society for the year are as follows:—

From the depot at home.....	1,528,867	} 2,682 185 Bibles, Testaments and Portions.
From depots abroad.....	1,153,318	

The total issues of the Society now amount to 76,432,723 copies.

The Earl of Aberdeen moved the following resolution:—

“That the Report, an abstract of which has been read, be received, and printed under the direction of the Committee.”

The Very Rev. Dean Close, in seconding the resolution, said:—My Lord, and dear Christian friends,—The noble speaker who preceded me seemed to claim some exemption from speaking at length, on the score of inexperience and extreme youth. Perhaps I might plead the opposite qualities—experience and extreme old age. But, instead of that, I ground my appeal to be heard this morning on those very circumstances. When I look back over a long life, if there is anything that I can regard with satisfaction, it is that sixty-four years since I became a worker for this institution. It was in 1812 that I became a collector of a penny a week for the British and Foreign Bible Society, under the direction of that excellent man, the eldest son of “Bible Scott,” and the lesson which he then imparted to me I have never forgotten. I may truly say that from boyhood to youth, from youth to manhood, and from manhood to old age, I have never hesitated to support to the utmost of my ability this glorious and blessed institution. I have advocated it and stood by it in fair weather and in foul. There have been occasions in past years, when I was permitted more frequently to attend your meetings, when this room was not more than two-thirds full, if so much. Division and strife, which have always been the curse of the Christian Church, had found their way even into the bosom of this Society; but there was something in her, which I shall endeavour to show before I sit down, which prevented the good ship from foundering; and now when I come before you after the lapse of so many years, I find you, my Lord, in your old position, presiding as you have done year after year for twenty-five years, and God grant that you may live to preside over these meetings for many years to come! You are inured to the changes and fluctuations of the Society. They do not strike you so forcibly, coming, as they do, on you gradually, but when we in the far country—for I live in North Britain, according to the direction on many of my letters—I live far away from the influence of these great changes, and therefore I regard them from a different standpoint to that of your Lordship, and they strike us as wonderful interventions of Divine Providence. I made the remark that I had stood by this Society in fair weather and in foul, and it has had some very foul weather. Among other things, I remember that when I was young the wiseacres used to say, “Oh, those poor fellows at Exeter Hall, let them alone, it will soon evaporate.” And now, sixty years after, I find this noble room filled by persons desirous of promoting the circulation of the Word of God. I see this Bible Society—this noble ship, often sorely pressed and half a wreck—thoroughly equipped and laden with the Word of God in all languages and tongues. She is going down Channel with every sail set, and, I am afraid, in spite of Mr. Plimsoll, with deck-cargo and all; and above her flies, I will not say a Royal or an Imperial standard, but I will say the standard of the Lord of Hosts, and under such a flag there must eventually be victory. But some may question whether I am not overstating the case of this British and Foreign Bible Society. It can hardly be overstated. I dare say very few of you have looked as you ought to do into that big book, the Report. Why, it is a volume. I cannot read it—I have not time; but I skim it over. What a wonderful book it is! What extraordinary facts it relates! What successes it records! Yet, when I go round the country I find very few people talking about the British and Foreign