

Bombay; of translations being revised; of the experience of colporteurs, of Biblewomen pursuing as none but Christian women can their sisterly and noble work. But it is only one who knows intimately and has long observed the currents of thought and life in India who can fairly estimate their direction and the force. Perhaps indeed these currents are becoming too visible both in their flow and volume for any, even the indifferent observer, to be unconscious of them. 'It is manifest to all who have personal intercourse with educated Hindus, writes the report from Madras, 'that their views and feeling in regard to religion in particular are undergoing a marked change.' And the Rev. J. Lazarus, who is well qualified to express an opinion, is thus quoted. 'Christianity,' he writes 'is in the air, and India is passing through a serious crisis. Materialism, once so popular, is growing out of fashion and yielding place to a religious sentiment. Though the educated masses are still at some distance from the threshold of Christianity. Christ is seldom out of their sight. He is more than ever in the van of moral and religious progress. In English and vernacular newspapers, the writers often exhibit an intimate acquaintance with the Bible. Even among the masses the Bible is making way. I have come across many villagers who are in the habit of reading the Word of God.'

The 429 Biblewomen were geographically distributed thus:—India 310, Ceylon 76, Syria and Palestine 14, Egypt 18, China 1, Straits 2, Mauritius and the Seychelles 4. The 310 in India were apportioned thus:—in Bengal, Behar, Chota Nagpur, Orissa and Assam, 120; in the Madras Presidency, with Mysore, Cochin and Travancore, 89; in the Bombay Presidency, with Sindh, 42; in the North-West Provinces, 25; in the Panjab, 23; in Central India, 8; and in Burma, 3.

But, as has been often remarked in this Report, this work must not be estimated as simply one of *figures*. Each native woman to whom the Word of Christ has been brought nearer has an immortal soul. Each copy circulated is at least a book through which the Holy Spirit can bring such a soul to Jesus. And each woman has her sphere of influence beyond herself in a family and in a neighbourhood. Much of the inestimable good that the Bible Society is effecting by the circulation of inspired books is necessarily at present concealed from view. This must be specially so amid the conditions under which Eastern women live and can be approached. But cases here and there come to light which make it plain that the Biblewomen's work among them is very far from being 'in vain in the Lord.' Such results cannot be tabulated by figures. 'The Day' alone can reveal their full value. For that we must work and wait.

The reports continue to bear ample evidence of the high spiritual and missionary value of the Biblewomen's work. But space fails for more than a few samples of its lights and shadows. A. S. P. G. missionary in Rangoon writes:—'The Biblewoman is indefatigable in her work, and has a great influence for good on