

turning his sacred history into a mere romance—both of which works are popular, and read by thousands, not only in those countries which have given birth to such monstrous productions, but throughout the civilized world, and even in heathen lands—surely, I say, we need in the present day advocates even of the Bible itself. And yet, notwithstanding, has the Bible ought to fear? does it dread the scrutinizing hand of the sceptic? does it tremble at the crucible of the stoic or philosopher? Much less does it apprehend ought from the scorn and derision of the fascinating eloquence of sceptical writers. Is it God's word, written by the hand of men inspired of the Holy Spirit? Then will God protect it, and he will but smile at the puny efforts of his weak, erring creatures. His counsel, his word, shall stand, and he will do all his pleasure. Besides, has not faith in God's Word taken such deep root in the hearts of millions of his people, that nothing can eradicate it? Is the faith of millions to be shaken by the mere *ipse dixit* of men—of admitted talents and abilities indeed, but—without the fear of God before their eyes, and whose pride, and not love to God, has prompted their unhallowed works. But we want not testimony to, or of, the efficacy of the Bible. Both are incontestable, such as constrain belief in it.

The time was when our public prints would not deign to notice our Missionary and Bible Institutions; when they looked upon them, if not with scorn and contempt, with indifference, and incredible of their success. But long since has that day passed, and a great change has taken place in the public mind, and what, perhaps, is not fully admired and commended, is spoken of with respect and treated with courteous attention. That very influential and world-wide circulated journal, the *London Times*, lately condescended, though rather qualifiedly, to recommend missionary enterprises. It says: "1. That the duty of propagating the Gospel is indispensable. 2. That the neglect of it is sure to recoil upon us and our country. 3. That there are few who trouble themselves much on the subject, or do anything to promote it." The writer attributes the reason of such indifference to "the absence of those facts, those details, that account of results, which Englishmen require in every matter they take in hand." Here truth does not bear out the writer; for, look where we may, we shall find that where the missionary has planted the Gospel, and the Bible been translated and circulated among the native converts, neither facts nor details, nor accounts of results have been wanting by way of encouragement to prosecute the work. No doubt the Report, an abstract of which has been read, gives many such pleasing facts and results in the different countries where the Society's labors have been exercised. There are, however, but two fields of its labors to which I shall now refer in proof of the facts and results of those labors. The one is India, and the other Madagascar—two vastly different countries, but both remarkable in the results required. India, indeed, has labored under great disadvantages—the British Government having greatly discouraged the propagation of the Gospel, or the circulation of the Scriptures, within the three Presidencies of that country. It is said, indeed, of Lord Wm. Bentinck, a late Governor General of India, that half of his income was unostentatiously employed by Lady Bentinck in the cause of Christian missions. The result of Christian missions in its bearing upon the late unhappy mutiny in India, no doubt had its influence upon British statesmen; they could not but be struck with the remarkable fact, that the native Christians were found to a man reliable. The more recent establishment of schools for the higher classes, both by Go-