

A reference to this lamented event cannot be made without reverting at the same time to another which speedily followed—the demise of our late revered and beloved Sovereign, whose known attachment to the cause you this day advocate, a cause so entirely in unison with the soundest dictates of his judgment and the best wishes of his heart, will endear him to every lover of his country and of his species, to the remotest ages of time.

It could not be that George the Third should have been indifferent to the design of circulating a book whose authority he revered—whose principles he imbibed—whose morality he exemplified—whose promises sustained him amidst the convulsive storms of a protracted and eventful reign—and whose prospects cheered him in the distant anticipation of his own dissolution. He read the Bible and he loved it; his character was formed upon it; and he expressly wished that every subject of his dominions might *have*, and *read* it too!

In the opinion of your Committee, there is no epoch of his history more honourable to the Sovereign and to the country than that moment which gave birth to the British and Foreign Bible Society; a moment when infidelity had unhappily poisoned every court, and tarnished almost every crown in Europe. Our parent King then stood alone, like a rock amidst contending waves, unmoved by the seductions of a false philosophy, and the ravings of an infuriated anarchy. To this well-principled firmness we gratefully attest our obligations this day; and trust, that as the Bible has ever proved itself the steady friend of the throne, *that* throne will ever shew itself to be the friend of the Bible.

*From the Fourth Report of the American Bible Society,
May, 1820.*

It affords the managers unspeakable gratification, and will unite the hearts of their fellow-members of the Society in fervent thanksgiving to God, that, at the termination of their fourth year's labours they have occasion for no unpleasant retrospect; that Christian love and fellowship have grown with mutual intercourse; and that conciliation and harmony have uniformly governed their measures. They have found an ample requital of all their exertions in those feelings of affection and attachment which the principle of our Association, and its simple, but magnificent design, are so well calculated to foster and increase.

There have been printed, at the depository of the American Bible Society, during the past year,

Bibles.....	47,000
Testaments	16,250
Making a total of ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-ONE THOU-	