

whose minds were blinded by superstition, as from those who were imbued with the principles of infidelity. In reference to these fields the parent Committee remark "that the light of heavenly truth is sure chase away the gloom, and to penetrate regions heretofore unvisited, and waxing stronger and stronger where it has long partially shown. They point, with a pleasure not unmingled with surprise, to the sales of the Scriptures now going on in Holland; to the continuance of the Bible work in France, as also in Belgium, and to its sudden and hopeful revival amidst the mountains of Switzerland. They rejoice that Sweden is receiving with open hand the precious boon, and that inlets are still found for its introduction into the far distant provinces of the Russian Empire. In Germany too, but here the Committee rejoice with trembling; hope is, for a moment not unmixed with fear. The Scriptures are indeed widely disseminated in Germany; and a new door is opening among the German Catholics, for they, as well as Protestants, appeal to the Bible, Formulas and Confessions, and creeds are rejected, and the Bible alone is the watch word, although in some instances it is not alas! the Bible in its integrity."

Passing over other portions of the Society's operations, the interesting details of which are given in this Report, your Committee would glance at the bright prospects which are now opening in the East and particularly in China. In this latter Country, a proclamation has been issued with the Emperor's sanction attached, granting liberty to teach, receive and profess the christian religion. When we consider the vast extent of this Country, the millions of its population who are now under the blighting influence of heathenism, ought we not to rejoice that an opportunity is now legally afforded for the circulation of the Scriptures, which we trust will be effectual to the breaking down of the strongholds of sin and to the introduction of the true privileges of the Gospel of peace.

In the summary of its proceedings given in the Report we observe that the issues of the parent Society for the past year have amounted to 1,441,651, being 525,840 copies more than in the preceding year. The total issues of the Society from the first have been eighteen millions, three hundred and twenty two thousand, four hundred and eighty seven volumes.

These facts are startling to those who may not be aware of the extended operations of the Institution; but to the friend of the Bible they are most cheering, for they shew that the good cause is prospering to an unprecedented extent, and they open up the prospect of still greater things which may be accomplished hereafter.

Your Committee have only briefly adverted to the interesting details contained in the Parent Society's publication, but they trust they have exhibited enough to increase the arder of the friends of the cause in this Province, and to urge them to advance its interests with renewed diligence. They now beg to turn your attention to the state of our Auxiliary, of which they will proceed to give a summary.

The Chester Branch, with its usual punctuality, has remitted for the two years, the sum of twenty pounds. Your Committee feel pleasure in recording the high sense they entertain of the continued