

tions forbid the circulation, through its agencies, of Bibles wherein the Apocrypha is contained—very likely because the society has everywhere to take decided ground against all distinctively Roman doctrines. In the eighty-one years of its establishment the society has been carrying out its object with constantly increasing effectiveness. Last year by its agents over three million copies of the Scriptures, in whole or part, were distributed; and the grand total of its work, since its work began, represents over one hundred million copies sold and given away. Of the society's yearly work, no detailed mention can be made in a column; indeed, its own published annual reports fills six hundred octavo pages, including mention of the work on English soil, and a still fuller summary of the results abroad. A million and a quarter of dollars came into the society's treasury last year, nearly all of which passed at once out in meeting printing and colportage expenses.

Not yet has the American Bible Society attained to an equally large income, though it is also engaged in a similarly important work. Indeed, during the last four years, the American Society has in all expended a quarter of a million dollars over its available receipts, and its managers are viewing with anxiety the heavy draft thus made upon the reserve fund. In some respects the past few months has been specially trying in the Society's work. Last year, in the death of Dr. S. Wells Williams, the Society lost its efficient President. Last spring, the death of the Hon. Frederick T. Frelinghuysen removed the man whom the Managers had elected to be Dr. Williams' successor; and again, a few weeks since, the sudden decease of Dr. S. Irenæus Prime, of the *New York Observer*, deprived the Society of still another strong friend. It was Dr. Prime who, at the Society's annual meeting in May, moved a resolution of sympathy for Mr. Frelinghuysen in his sickness. In the few weeks since, both Dr. Prime and Mr. Frelinghuysen have passed away. Three Vice-Presidents of the Society also died during the past year.

But, of course, the Society's work is too firmly established now to be materially shaken by the death of an individual or individuals. Like the British Society, than which it is a few years younger, it labours both at home and abroad. Recently it began a thorough canvas of the United States, and at present, by colporteurs, and through other agencies, about a million families are visited annually, twelve per cent. of whom are found destitute of Bibles. Two-fifths of the entire issues from the Bible House last year were consignments to colporteurs, and grants to auxiliary local Bible societies, and to individuals, churches, and Sunday schools. In addition, the missionaries of the American Sunday School Union, and of the various denominational home mission societies, receive annually from the Bible Society many thousands of Bibles, which they distribute in needy localities of the South and West. The Bible Society itself kept three hundred and fifty-nine colporteurs at work in the United States during a part or whole of last year. The Managers would be glad to enlarge this department, and would do so, except for the deficit noted above. The financial depression throughout the country interferes somewhat with the sale of Bibles published by the Society. Then, of course, (though the Society's report makes no mention of this point), the recent large sale of the revised version decreases, considerably, the sale of the authorized version—and both the British and the American societies are forbidden by their constitutions to circulate other versions than that which owes its origin to the King James revisers.

Abroad, the Bible Society smooths the path of the missionary by furnishing the Scriptures in the local vernacular, or by preceding him by colportage work. "Leaving it to others to circulate books about the Bible, commentaries, introductions, concordances, and the like; to employ catechists, preachers, and Bible readers, and to endow schools, churches, and hospitals; the province of this Society has been to provide copies of the Scriptures, in a legible form, in the language of common life, and to disseminate them, as far as could wisely be done, among all classes of people and in all lands to which