

but to testify our adherence to the great—the vital principle—upon which the Bible Society is based, and to be reminded of our own advantages, our own duties and responsibilities, and the facilities which are afforded us of discharging them. If we admit it to be our duty to read the Bible—if we feel it to be an inestimable privilege that we have the Bible, and have had it—the most, if not all, of us here present—from our earliest years—probably none of our memories can go back to the time when we first saw this holy book,—we cannot doubt that it is our duty to enable others, less highly-favoured, to read it also. If for this purpose we were called upon to part with our own Bibles, or take away portions of them,—if we were called on to transcribe its pages, to make translations of it into foreign tongues, or convey it ourselves to distant regions, we might well be in despair, and say the work is too hard for us; but we are beset by none of these difficulties—we can avail ourselves of no such excuses. Here is a Society formed on the most comprehensive plan, with its one simple object, means most unexceptionable and energies devoted to the great work, established and still conducted by zealous, prudent, able and pious men,—a Society which has stood the test of forty-three years' experience, gaining in strength and favour and usefulness year by year, until, from small beginnings, its operations extend throughout all parts of the globe,—with its accredited agents in France, Belgium, Germany, Greece, Turkey, and the West Indies,—its numerous Auxiliaries and Branches, and kindred Societies,—its hundreds of humble colporteurs, and among its supporters many of the noblest and best in the land.

It is that admirable Society which invites us to aid her, in doing the work which we feel ought to be done—which has already sent forth Twenty Millions of Bibles and Testaments, in more than one hundred and fifty different languages and dialects, and yet feels sensible how much more remains to be done, before the way of God is made known to all the world. Can we hesitate in giving the aid which is in our power, and urging on others to do the same? Should we not consider it a great privilege to be allowed to do so?—are we willing to let this great work go on, and have no suitable part or lot in it?

Let any one consider the operations of the Parent Society, even for the past year—its resources, notwithstanding the other powerful and irresistible calls on the liberality of England, greater than in any previous year—its issues of the Scriptures, over fourteen hundred thousand copies; a vast increase of its distribution in the populous Towns and Counties at home, and new openings in the Continents and Islands of the East; and last, but not least, the silent progress the truths of the Bible have made on the hearts of many who have received it by means of the Bible Society.