

and I feel that if only this people were lifted out of the degradation into which these heathen systems have cast them, they would be as they go throughout the world a savour of life unto life, instead of, as they are to-day, a savour of death unto death. I am here to thank this Society for the noble work it has done in China. We are dealing in China with people who value reading, and who, when the Word of God is once in their hands, exercise their faculties upon it; and results have been produced here, that if you keep in mind the difficulties, have been produced nowhere else in the world."

The Rev. ROBERT BRUCE said :—" My lord and Christian friends, it so happens that for exactly the same time, viz., for twenty-three years, that our brother has been labouring in China I have been engaged in a very different sphere among Mohammedans, and during all that time I ever valued, though at first from a distance, the British and Foreign Bible Society. But it is only within the last few years that I have really learnt to love that Society. You cannot love anyone till you know him, and it is only latterly that I have begun really to know the members of this Society; and I may confess, my lord, that I love them more, not only because I have found that they were a centre from which the 'Word of God goes forth into every land in nearly 300 dialects, but because I have become acquainted with their Agents in Russia, Poland, and other parts of the world, and I have found them full of a missionary spirit. It is not my part to speak of this Society and the work which it does in Christian lands. It is my part to speak of it only as a missionary society. The Rev. Henry Venn, who was for so many years the chief secretary of the greatest missionary society in the world, said in his old age, 'When I was a young man I used to think of the Bible Society as the handmaid of missionary societies, but I now think that she is the queen's daughter who is all glorious within, and we missionary societies are the virgins, her companions, who bear her company.' When we consider the work of the Bible Society and the object which it has in view—that the Bible has been translated into nearly 300 dialects in the lifetime of men who are now living, and that the Bible Society, without stopping to ask whether we have results or not, urges on the missionaries in every land to scatter the seed of God's Word broadcast, we see there is no agency which does more to hasten the second coming of the Son of God.

"Missionary societies and Bible societies must go hand in hand. Just at the very time when our church and school were sufficiently trained to be able to supply colporteurs, we had the great blessing of a visit from Mr. Watt, who is now the Agent of the Society in Germany, and who was then Agent for South Russia. I must say that I cannot express too highly my opinion of Mr. Watt, not only as Agent of the Bible Society, but as a man who is filled with a missionary spirit; and I grudge him to any Christian land. I wish I could get him in the East, for I never saw a man who was more filled with a missionary spirit. What I particularly admired in him was the way in which he lived as a brother with a native clergyman and with the native converts, and the way he threw himself into the mission work while he was in Persia. I grudge him to the churches in Europe. I should like to have him in Baghdad. Mr. Watt travelled all through Persia to find out what were the best places for getting up Agencies for the Bible Society in Persia; and, among other places, he went just beyond the frontier to Baghdad; and he found that Baghdad was, in one way, the centre of the whole of the Shiite Mohammedans of the world, and that just as the Turks go on pilgrimage to Mecca, so all the Shiites of the world go on pilgrimage to Baghdad; and it was owing to his visit there that, the year before last, I took a journey, at the request of the Bible Society, to Baghdad; and this led to the Church Missionary Society determining this year, in connection with the Bible Society, who are going hand-in-hand with us, to commence a station in Baghdad. I would just mention, for I am sure it will interest you