

"In general, the ignorance as regards religious matters is frightful. Many do not know that the Bible is given by God. They think it is a Book containing Luther's or Martini's doctrines. Some think our Depot is under the auspices of the Romish Clergy. Others, and among these some respectable-looking men—have brought back our books, saying that, as they were without the 'ecclesiastical imprimatur,' they dare not read them. Our editions are sometimes used as 'mass books.' Ladies, coming from church, have repeatedly been seen with the New Testament in their hands."

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## Miscellaneous.

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### A WEEKLY WALK OF FOURTEEN MILES TO READ ONE CHAPTER.

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There was, many years ago, a little Welsh girl, who went every Sunday to hear the Rev. Thomas Charles preach in the town of Bala, in Wales. She was very attentive and well-behaved in church, and not like some little girls, who laugh and whisper while the services are going on. Mr. Charles often met her in the street during the week, and was in the habit of asking her to repeat the text from which she had heard him preach the previous Sabbath-day. This she was generally able to do without hesitation. But one day when her pastor met her, and as usual, asked her the text, she was silent. He repeated the question, but still she kept silent, while tears were added. Kindly placing his hand on her head, as she stood before him with downcast eyes, the good minister said, "What is the matter my child?" Encouraged by his kindness, the girl replied, "the weather, sir, has been so bad that I could not get to read the Bible." "Could not get to read the Bible! Why, what does that mean?" said Mr. Charles. "Why, sir," answered the child, "we have no Bible in our house; but there is one in a house the other side of the mountain, that I can look at whenever I choose. But the weather has been so bad this week, that I have not been able to get there." The house to which the child referred was seven miles off, and she had been in the habit of walking there every week, to read the chapter from which the minister had taken his text the previous Sabbath. When the good pastor found that the little girl was willing to walk fourteen miles for the privilege of reading the Bible, he made her a present of one, which she kept in her own house. Does any one ask why no Bible could be found within seven miles, and why the Bible Society had not distributed Bibles among the people? The answer is simply this:—This circumstance happened in the year 1802, before there was any Bible Society in existence, and as Bibles were neither so plentiful nor so cheap then as now, many of the poor people who lived among the hills were unable to obtain a copy of the Word of God. Nor was this all; for this very incident was the means of originating the first Bible Society in the World. The good Welsh minister, after talking with the little girl, felt so deeply the destitution of the people, that when he visited London in December of the same year, he brought the subject before the committee of the Religious Tract Society, of which he was a member. He urged them to send Bibles to Wales, and to form a society for the purpose. Another minister proposed that they should form a society to supply the nation and the world with Bibles. The society was not organized at that time, but the friends of the plan continued to talk about it until they induced others to join them, and on the 7th of March, 1804, the society was formed under the name of "The British and Foreign Bible Society." It has ever since been a blessing to the world.