

NOTES.

Accounts from London of some of the May meetings have come to hand. The British and Foreign Bible Society's seventy-seventh anniversary passed off successfully. The Earl of Shaftesbury now over eighty years of age presided for the thirty-second time. The expenditure for the year was over £190,000, and the income fully that amount. Earl Cairns spoke of this society as the helper and hand-maid of all other societies and the rival of none, and said among other things:—"I like to think of those 240 languages and dialects into which, through the instrumentality of this society, the Scriptures have been translated; so that a wonder almost greater than the wonder of Pentecost has been accomplished, and not merely "Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites," but multitudes of nations, of many of whom we hardly know the names or countries, have "heard in their own tongue in which they were born the wonderful works of God." (Loud cheers.) I like to think of those great, almost stupendous, arithmetical figures,—90 millions of copies of the Bible circulated; 9,000,000*l.* of money spent; an income of over 100,000*l.* a year, and about as much more derived from the sale of the Scriptures. (Cheers.) And then I like to turn back to the beginning again,—to the little grain of small seed from which the spreading and magnificent tree has been produced. This great society, starting with its paltry income of five or six hundred a year, has accomplished to the letter the great wish of the great martyr Tyndal, that every boy in England who drove the plough might have as ready access to the Bible as any priest in the land. (Cheers.) And, my Lord, above all, I like to look at this society, not merely as a national protest in favour of an open Bible, but also as, in these days of rationalism and unbelief, a national testimony to the truth and power of God's Word. (Cheers.) It is not as a code of morals, however excellent; it is not as a strain of poetry, however beautiful; it is not as a chronicle of history, however thrilling; but it is as a glorious revelation of God's love and God's redemption; it is as the gracious channel of God's mercy and God's comfort; it is as the greatest because the only Divine civilizer of humanity that we join in spreading and circulating this priceless Book."

The Lord Bishop of Rochester, Bishop Thorold, referring to a visit he once made to the Convent of St. Catherine, on Mount Sinai, to see the famous Tischendorf Manuscript, now in St. Petersburg, said: Something else I saw in the library evidently not felt to be of so much value as this manuscript, though you and I should consider it to be of greater value. There were a number of Bibles covered with dust. They had evidently not been looked at since they were laid there. They had been given by Dr. Wolff some years ago, and the monks had accepted them, but they were never touched. And for this very reason, which I have under abundant authority, that not one of the monks could read.

It was announced in the Report that the proper course for the British and Foreign Bible Society to take, in reference to the Revised Version of the English Scriptures, has already engaged the careful attention of the Committee, regard being had to the regulation which provides that the only copies in the languages of the United Kingdom to be circulated