

little known, but it is neither very young nor very poor. Still it is generally admitted that at present the most correctly and beautifully written book in the Servian language is that translation of the Bible which your Bible Society has given us. Indeed, a number of infidel young men regularly read the Bible for the sake of its beautiful language. There was a time when I myself read it only to improve my style of writing. But, ladies and gentlemen, one cannot read the Bible, for however strange a purpose, without sooner or later coming to a point where one is compelled to stop, and—losing sight of all other purposes, forgetting the beauty of language for the higher beauty of thought—exclaim: ‘Who is it who speaks thus? No man, no society, no nation, no human genius ever spoke or wrote like this!’ We must stop to search, and the deeper we go the greater wonders we see, until, if the Divine mercy is with us, we come to perceive the greatest of all wonders—the beauty of the self-revealed God!

ALBANIA.

“Allow me to give another instance of the working of the Bible Society. Between Servia and Macedonia, from north to south, and between Bulgaria and Albania, from east to west, there is a country which the Turks have jealously cut off from intercourse with the civilized world, and more particularly from communication with the neighbouring Servia. The majority of the population are Servians, but the Turkish Government introduced some of the wildest tribes of Albanians and settled them on the Servian boundary, so that between us and our brethren in Turkey was an Albanian zone which was almost impenetrable. A chain of armed Albanians was constantly on guard along our frontier, and, worse than a Chinese wall, completely prevented all intercourse. However, in our second war with Turkey, we pushed forward and occupied the largest part of that country. And three things were there which certainly surprised us: We found that there has been at least one Turkish pasha who made good public works for the people—we found that the Albanians, whom we considered so extremely savage, had a highly-developed system of farming—and, last not least, in the wretched huts of our brethren we found here and there copies of Servian or Bulgarian Bibles, published by the British and Foreign Bible Society. And these Bibles—which have found their way to many a house, to many a school, and even to some prisons in the Balkan peninsula; which doubtless have conquered there many a heart and helped to save many a soul—these Bibles bring me back to you, because they bear the signature of that spirit which pervades the Christian society of England, and which animates, I am sure, this meeting to-night. . . .”

 THE SOCIETY AND QUESTIONS OF THE DAY.

Among the questions at the present moment before the public are the following:—

1. The troubles in Afghanistan. In the Pushtu, which is the language of the Afghans, the Society published the New Testament as far back as 1863, one Gospel having appeared in 1857. At present the Old Testament is being prepared by the Rev. T. P. Hughes, of Peshawur, and a Native edition of the Psalms is being printed in the version of the Rev. J. T. Lee Mayer.

2. In Basutoland, while the Colonial troops are endeavouring to disarm the natives, the Society is arming them with a complete Bible and pocket New Testament with references, prepared in the Sesuto language by the French missionaries, who have been engaged on the work since 1849.

3. The Russians are said to be concentrating 10,000 men and 100 guns on the Tekke Turcomans. For this tribe the Society printed last winter a Gospel prepared by the Rev. J. Basset, American missionary at Teheran.