

life has withered—and that wherever it has been freely circulated, it has proved the Divinity of its origin, and the blessedness of its power, in the elevation of the people, the prosperity of the nation, the purity of the priesthood, the stability of the Church, and in everything that makes a nation great and free; she has bravely defended the right of every man to possess and read the Bible in his mother tongue. And of its influence upon the hearts and lives of the people, we know of nothing more true and beautiful, than the following from the "Dublin Roman Catholic Review": "Who will not say that the uncommon beauty and marvellous English of the Protestant Bible is one of the great strongholds of heresy in this country? It lives on the ear like a music that can never be forgotten; like the sound of the church bell, which the convert hardly knows how he can forego. Its felicities often seem to be almost things, rather than mere words. It is a part of the national mind, and the anchor of national seriousness. The power of all the gifts and trials of a man is hidden beneath its words. It is the representative of his best moments; and all that there has been about him of soft, and gentle, and pure, and penitent, and good, speaks to him for ever out of the English Bible. It is his sacred thing, which doubt has never dimmed, and controversy never soiled. In the length and breadth of the land there is not a Protestant with one spark of righteousness about him, whose spiritual biography is not in his Saxon Bible."

To give this Book to every man, woman, and child, not only at home, but also abroad, was the object of the founders of the "British and Foreign Bible Society." To describe the operations of, or to estimate the good done by this Society, is utterly beyond our power; suffice it to say, that while the "American Bible Society" has issued from 1816 to 1867, 22,940,404 copies of the Bible, the "British and Foreign Bible Society" has issued from 1803 to 1867, 52,669,089 copies. And in the last named year, the issues of the latter exceeded those of the former by 1,134,062 copies.

Of her Missionary operations we cannot now speak particularly. Not only under her own flag, but under those also of almost all other nations, her Bible is being circulated, and her children are telling the "Old, old story." Recognizing her own indebtedness to the Gospel, and believing that what it has done for her, it is able to do for others, she has availed herself of every opportunity to give it to the world. Through every conquered province liberty of conscience has been proclaimed, and in every treaty it has been expressly stipulated that the Gospel should be untrammelled. And so well and widely known has she become for her