

fadeth, but the word of our God shall stand for ever.' Isa: 40, 8."

The next part of the volume treats of "the Bible Society's House—the printing and binding of the Bible." This house is situated in Earl Street, London, and is built within the precincts of the old monastery of the Black-friars—the spot from which the word of God now goes out to all the earth. Under this head, we are presented with various, curious and interesting details regarding the library of the Society, the manuscript and duplicate Library, the Committee Rooms, the Bible warehouse, &c. There is a chapter on the printing and binding of the Bible; and it is truly astonishing to think that a book which requires the aid of 14 persons to make its paper, 21 persons to print it correctly, 19 persons to bind it neatly—54 persons in all—(not to speak of those of other trades, who must have combined to its production,) can be sold by the Bible Society for one shilling sterling!

The third and last portion of the work is devoted to a review of the Society's rise, progress and present operations. In order to assist us in surveying its proceedings, the world is divided into separate regions, not according to their geographical order, but according to the general religious belief of their several inhabitants.—1. The Protestant countries. 2. The Jews, and Remnants of Ancient Christian Churches. 3. Those where the Roman Catholic religion and the Greek Church prevail. 4. The Mohammedan countries. 5. The Heathen or Pagan countries. What has been the work of the British and Foreign Bible Society in each of these? in what way and by whom has it been accomplished? are questions which are answered in this section of the volume.

We have seen that no less than fifty persons are employed upon the mere paper and printing and binding of a Bible. "When the book is in existence as a book, it is scattered over the world by various agents. Many laborious servants of the Society join to spread it abroad; the missionary, in his exile from his friends and country, his own heart cheered by the Book, and his hand distributing it wherever he goes; the travelling agent, 'plying his unwearied round of visits,' often amid those who care but little to receive them, but often, also, where he is warmly welcomed and encouraged; the depository and accountant, with their assistants, working at their desks with tireless zeal and fidelity for a long term of years; the invaluable scribe, carrying on the correspondence with all nations; the translators, who, in the land where the language is spoken, sit down to create first, perhaps, its grammar and its dictionary, nay, its very letters, before they can approach their noble task itself; then the colporteurs, in various countries and all weathers, exposed to numerous difficulties and hardships, sometimes received with welcome, it is true, but at others with unkindness, and even menace, and sometimes sub-

ject to slanderous accusations and unjust imprisonment; then there are the unpaid collectors, the life-blood of the Society, who, also, for the true love of the work, engage in their weekly rounds, unnoticed save by Him for whose sake they labor. It is by all those that the seed is scattered; 'the seed is the word,' and 'the field is the world.'

"Very rich land is yet to be possessed; vast is the magnitude of the work which remains to be done. At the utmost possible computation of Bibles already circulated, 700 millions of souls, or 140 millions of families, are yet left totally destitute! Even if England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland were adequately provided, the kingdoms and countries of Europe are not half supplied! Supposing the United States of America to possess Bibles to the same extent with ourselves, look at the native tribes, and the vast continent of South America! then at all Asia, and Africa, and Oceania! and impressed with a fresh sense of the wants of the world—of the power of the Book—and of the truth of its Story,—let us arise and work while it is called to-day, for the night cometh when no man can work—work together with God, who has said, "My word shall not return unto me void; but it shall accomplish that which I please, and shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

The American Tract Society.

We have been favoured with a look at the "Third Annual Report of the Pennsylvania Branch of the American Tract Society, presented at Philadelphia, May 1, 1856," and we are delighted to find that the efforts of the Society have been so signally blessed, within the last year, in promoting sound, evangelical religion among large masses of our fellow men, the inhabitants of cities as well as the dwellers in remote quarters of the country, whom no other ecclesiastical machinery seems so well fitted to reach as the Colportage system. Based upon the oneness of all evangelical denominations in their adherence to fundamental doctrines, upon the conceded fact that they all stand upon the same changeless revelations of man's guilt and Christ's sacrifice, of justification by faith, and regeneration by the spirit, and labouring simply to convince man of his guilt and point him to the only refuge, it has attracted from all portions of the Church a vast aggregate of influences. Good men of every name love it and cheer it on, because they have seen its efficiency as an evangelizing medium. There are hundreds of thousands of the population of the States who are not reached by the ministry, and it can easily be perceived how in the large cities and towns, multitudes might live and die without receiving a single visit from any minister of the Gospel. It is the business of this society to occupy the particular field which is thus thrown open; to find out the

neglected and destitute; to explore the courts and alleys of our cities; to traverse the mountain passes, and bring the gospel to those whom the ministry does not reach.

We understand that Mr. A. McBean, son of Mr. McBean of Pictou, a staunch friend of our Church, and a pious, worthy man, has been for some time employed in connection with the Pennsylvania Branch of the Society, and has lately, as a reward of his zeal, diligence and success, been elevated to the important office of Superintendent of Colporteurs. The following extracts from this gentleman's report are highly interesting, as showing the great need there is for such instrumentality to bring in the wandering and the lost to the fold of the Great Shepherd.

"I have laboured as a Colporteur of the American Tract Society in the county of C— fifteen days. It might be supposed that in so limited a space of time much of interest could not be seen or met with. Enough however, has been seen to deepen the conviction in my mind of the absolute necessity of such an agency as the American Tract Society, to aid our preaching the gospel to every creature; and that this is true not only in regard to destitute and out of the way regions, but in what might seem to be the most highly favoured portions of this country, so greatly blessed as a land of Bibles, a preached Gospel, and a Christian literature. Here, within 30 miles of Philadelphia, are whole villages and neighbourhoods where the Sabbath is spent in visiting, trafficking, and amusements of various kinds. I found a small village having nine families, eight of whom constantly neglected evangelical preaching, and without any religious books except the Bible. One lady, when asked if she had religious books in the house, answered, 'Oh, yes;' and showed me a volume in which I found passages denying the Divinity of Christ. Another woman when asked to show me some of her religious books, of which she said she had several, handed me a school-book called the Select Reader, and other similar volumes. I found another village containing ten families, every one of whom neglected evangelical preaching. Making some inquiries of a lady who lived there, how the Sabbath was spent, I was told that the women spent it in visiting, sewing and knitting, and the men in trading, fishing, gunning, &c.; and that this was true not only of the village, but also of the surrounding neighbourhood. This lady was at one time a professor of religion; but for a good portion of the last ten years, has attended to her business as dressmaker on the Sabbath, the same as on any week day."

We may add, that there have been in the employment of this Branch during the whole or a part of the year, 120 Colporteurs, including 39 students from nine different institutions. Of the whole number commissioned, 30 used both the German and English languages, 6 exclusively the German, and one devoted his time to the Swedes, Danes, and Norwegians in the northern counties of this State; 92 have laboured in Pennsylvania, 16 in Ohio, 5 in Virginia, 4 in New Jersey, and 3 in Delaware. The aggregate time of service has been 572 months, 25 days, equal to 47 years, 8 months, and 25 days. They visited 127,006 families