

Trans-Atlantic Retrospect.

THE MAY MEETINGS have derived additional interest this year from the remarkable revival in Ireland and other parts of the United Kingdom. The reflections arising out of so wonderful a work could not but give a colour and tone to many of the speeches, especially those in connection with the Home Missionary work. We never regret more the limited space at our command, than when reading the eloquent, earnest and fervid addresses at these meetings. There is in them, frequently, so much that is deeply spiritual, combined with what is so thoroughly practical, that we would gladly present to our readers lengthened extracts, feeling sure that they would be very acceptable. Space has, however, inexorable laws, and all that we can do is to present a brief summary of the operations of the principal Societies. We begin with that noble institution,

THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.—From the report we learn that “The issues of the Society for the year had been, from the depôt at home 1,241,679 copies, from depôts abroad 676,218; making in all 1,917,897 copies; being an increase of 291,912 copies over those of any preceding year. The total issue of the Society now amounted to 37,527,828 copies. The receipts of the year ending March 31, 1860, have exceeded those of any preceding year (excluding the special funds). The amount applicable to the general purposes of the Society is £80,526 17s. 6d., and the amount received for Bibles and Testaments £81,493 15s. 11d.; making a total of £162,020 13s. 5d.; being £7,114 7s. 4d. more than in any previous year. The sum of £1,278 4s. for the Chinese New Testament Fund, and £837 9s. for the Special Fund for India, added, make a grand total of £164,136 6s. 5d.” More than eight hundred thousand dollars! What a noble offering to the spread of God’s word among the nations of the earth! The chair was taken by the Earl of Shaftesbury. The first resolution was moved by the Duke of Marlborough, and the second by the Rev. S. Martin. Among the speakers were the Rev. Lal Behari Singh, who bore testimony to the good effects of Bible distribution in the case of himself and family; the Bishop of Cashel; the Dean of Carlisle; and the Rev. Dr. Murray, delegate from the American Bible Union. May the success of the Bible Society abound yet more and more. It is a noble, catholic, Christ-like effort.

THE RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY’S Annual meeting (the sixty-first) was numerously attended, Colonel Edwardes in the chair. The report stated that 253 new publications had been issued by the Society during the past year. The total issue had amounted to 41,710,203 publications. Of the four periodicals of the Society, *The Leisure Hour*, *Sunday at Home*, *Child’s Companion*, and the *Tract Magazine*, 12,827,460 numbers had been sold. Nine millions of tracts had been issued by the Paris Auxiliary, chiefly to soldiers; and almost every part of the world bears witness to the labours of the Society. France and Belgium, Spain and Portugal; Italy, where exciting political events have given an impetus to the work; and every other country in Europe; India, with its swarming millions; China, Africa and the Colonies—all alike are its field of labour. It is a worthy coadjutor to the Bible Society, and the success we pray for the one is deserved by the other. Let us hope that every succeeding year may add to their strength and efficiency.