

Babylon, with the purpose of exploring the ground for Bible work. Suffice it if I say at present that my journey resulted in sending to those places colporteurs, and the Lord has been with them to such an extent that they sold almost all the books they had taken there, and have since repeated the circuit with similar results.

In closing, let me repeat what I wrote a few months ago to the Rev. W. Gray, of the Church Missionary Society (for it is equally true of both Societies), on the importance of Baghdad as a station. Remember that by establishing your work here in Baghdad you are working for the entire Orient—India included. One of the mollahs of Kazemain, a suburb of Baghdad, with a population of about 20,000, told me that to that place come annually upwards of 25,000 Shiahhs from India and the Persian Gulf. It is estimated that Kazemain has about 5,000 visitors daily. And let me tell you without boasting, that I was the first who ever sold a Bible in that place. No colporteur had ever ventured over the bridge—Kazemain is on the other side of the Tigris—before I came, but now that place is visited weekly, and almost each time the Lord opens the hands of some of them to buy a Bible or a Gospel; and may we not hope that with their hands the Lord will also open their eyes and heart?

If any work is to be done here or anywhere it must be done through the Bible—the Bible, and again the Bible. And although we may not now be permitted to see the actual results achieved by its dissemination, yet, nevertheless, the time will come, and will soon come, when the prophecy of Isaiah will be fulfilled—

“The wilderness and the solitary places shall be glad,
The desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose!
For they shall see the glory of the Lord,
They shall see the excellency of our God.”

May the Lord be with your work at home, and may He be with it abroad!

—B. & F. Bible Socy. Reporter.

EXTRACTS FROM THE LAST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARENT SOCIETY.

CHINA.

No subject has engaged a larger share of the attention of your Committee during the past year than the development of their work in China. For a considerable time there have been such unmistakable indications of willingness and even desire on the part of the people to hear and read about the Gospel, that the Committee felt they would be faithless and negligent if, having the means liberally placed at their disposal, they did not boldly go forward and remodel their organization in China on a scale that might serve the wants of years to come.

A visit to this country paid by Mr. Samuel Dyer, their Agent at Shanghai, offered a favourable opportunity for conference; and advice was sought from several eminent missionaries who happened to be in England. The result was a hearty and unanimous vote to create three distinct Agencies for North China, Mid. and South China respectively, and to engage a European head colporteur for each of the eighteen provinces, to travel with the native colporteurs and superintend their movements. One honoured friend, who takes the deepest interest in China, has given substantial token of pleasure at this forward movement by adding to large gifts previously made a thank-offering of £2,000 for colportage in that land.

But while a society may set up machinery and men may look on with approval it is only a divine Hand that can give it the pulse of life and enable it to do good and abiding work. To what purpose, it may be asked, all these