

No such figures as will be presently used to enumerate the issues of the past year were ever employed before; no such funds as are here recorded were ever received before; no such field as is here described was ever cultivated before.

In the first year of the ninth decade of the Society's existence the Committee bow themselves down before God in humble thankfulness for an open door that no man has been able to shut; for a balance-sheet in which liabilities of £231,000. have been met, and payments made, with a balance still remaining towards the engagements of a fresh year; and lastly, and chiefly, for a circulation, the wide world over, of four millions of copies in whole or in part of the Holy Bible of God.

This circulation exceeds by a million that of last year and is more than a quarter of a million beyond the highest figures ever reached before.

It is the year of the penny Testament, the 'little book' of which in less than nine months 955,000 copies have been taken out of the Society's hands. That number nearly approaches the Society's entire circulation in all languages in the year in which your noble President, then Lord Ashley, took the chair of the Society for the first time.

It is the year in which the claims of women have been more fully recognised, and the Word of God has been carried in the hands of women to women in every Eastern land where organised work is possible. The Lord gave the Word, and women carry it in a great company. Above £2000. this year have been spent in this way.

It has been a year of large opportunity largely unforeseen. English soldiers have read the Acts of the Apostles where once an Ethiopian dwelt of great authority, under Candace, Queen of the Ethiopians, and under their protection entrance has been found for two efforts to preach Jesus—in His own gospel—in regions almost inaccessible.

It has been a year of financial surprises and deliverances. The Society has felt, as was to be expected, the depression of the times. The free contributions from

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