

Society's house; and the colporteurs everywhere, and the missionaries, who proclaim the tidings of the Book; and I must mention the Association secretaries, and the deputations. What a great deal depends upon these, and what a blessing they give to us in the country! Old Mr. Brandram, and George Edwards—I wish he would come to Lichfield again. And I love to mention the name of Mr. Wingfield—how that man lived and loved and worked for this Society! Let us thank God for all these, and, above all, let us thank God for those wonderful translators of the Word of God; what do we not owe to them? My last words shall be these: May God bless the Society's labourers, and the Society that employs them!

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF THE FINANCE AND ISSUES OF THE YEAR 1888-9.

The Society's statistics for the year ending March 31 do not present so favourable an aspect as in recent years. This is chiefly owing to the exceptionally high figures of 1888, when the pecuniary receipts were exceptionally high, and the issues were the largest ever reported. The free income amounts to £113,870 17s. 4d., derived from annual subscriptions, donations, legacies, collections, dividends, interest and exchanges, and Free Contributions. The total is £34,936 4s. 5d. less than in the year preceding. There is a diminution in all the items, except two, but the only serious reduction is in legacies, which, while equal to the average, fall short of those of 1888 by £30,208 9s. 2d. For this the Committee were fully prepared, inasmuch as in 1888 the legacies were more than double the average, arising from the receipt of several unusually large bequests. A decline from this source, however, does not occasion the Committee unmingled regret, for, while augmentation of income from whatever quarter, is acceptable, that is the least so which implies the loss of living friends.

There is one slight increase which the Committee view with great satisfaction, viz., in the free contributions, which are the product of the remittances from the Auxiliaries. For several years these have shown a marked tendency to retrograde and although the advance is small, amounting only to £54, it indicates, the Committee hope, that the ebb has reached its lowest limit, and the tide has again begun to flow. The receipts from sales share the general decadence, but only in a small degree. They amount to £98,677 18s. 11d., of which sum the Home and the Foreign sales contribute in almost exactly similar proportion. The decrease as compared with 1888 is £3,765 6s. 1d. The decline in the Home receipts is principally accounted for by the cessation of the sale of the Jubilee Bible and Testament, and by the lessened demand for the Penny Testament—the benevolent objects for which this popular edition was published having now been nearly accomplished. The lessened receipts from abroad are to a considerable extent explained by the greater activity of some Continental Bible Societies, a fact which the Committee regard with unfeigned pleasure, and which is mainly due to the stimulus which this Society has afforded. The total receipts from all sources—Free Income:—Sales, including £101 14s. 4d. from the Roxburgh Fund; and £5 5s. from special donations for printing the Scriptures—amount to £212,655 15s. 7d. The expenditure for the year has been £226,164 14s. 5d., an increase over 1888 of £1,441 4s. 8d., and £13,503 18s. 10d. in excess of the receipts.

Uninteresting, and to some, perhaps, unintelligible, as these financial statistics appear, there is a view of them which will be understood and appreciated by all. The Church has shown its desire that the world should possess the Bible by gifts amounting to £113,977; and the world has shown its desire for the Bible by paying £98,677 to possess it.