

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY,
146 Queen Victoria Street,
LONDON, E. C., December, 1878.

EXPANSION OF THE SOCIETY'S WORK.

An earnest appeal for enlarged support.

The Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society have for some time felt, that the means at their disposal were inadequate to meet the growing expenditure which has resulted from the enlargement of their operations. They have however worked on in faith, and within a few years Agencies have been opened or extended in Russia and Austria, Spain, Portugal and Italy. At first the expenditure was comparatively small, but it has gradually increased, until these five countries involve an annual outlay of £37,000.

During recent wars the Committee thought it right to sanction the sale of the Scriptures to the Military at a very reduced price, as well as a free distribution of them to the sick and wounded. The cost of such a work was necessarily very great. In the Franco-German war it amounted to £16,000, and in the Russo-Turkish it has reached the large sum of £23,000.

The Committee are most unwilling to withdraw from any country which they at present occupy, or to reduce the staff of culporteurs whom they employ. They would far rather maintain their work in its integrity, and at the same time press onwards to the fuller occupation of other lands, such as Africa, the Caucasus, Persia and the regions beyond.

But the balancing of last year's accounts showed an excess of expenditure over receipts of £15,000, and an even larger deficit is expected in the accounts of the present year. To meet this deficiency the Committee have been compelled to draw largely upon their reserve fund which has now been reduced to £47,000, or barely three months' expenditure, a far lower figure than is considered prudent in view of the large engagements which must be punctually met.

An imperative necessity is thus laid upon them to curtail their existing work and refrain from occupying new ground, unless such a response is made to their present appeal as will justify a continuance of the policy by which they have hitherto been guided.

They have always felt encouraged to deal liberally with all applications for help, whether from their own country or foreign lands, by the conviction that in so doing they were acting in accordance with the wishes of their constituency, and that funds would not be wanting when the existing resources of the Society were found inadequate to meet the wants of the world.

The fact that the various Missionary Societies are dependent on the Bible Society for nearly all the versions which they use in the prosecution of their work, gives it a strong claim for generous support from Christians of all denominations.

The Committee most earnestly pray that God may incline the hearts of many to give of their substance, in such measure as shall enable them to carry on their important work with renewed activity, to His own Glory and the spiritual welfare of thousands of the human race.

JOSEPH HOARE,
Treasurer.

CHARLES JACKSON, }
S. B. BERGE, } *Secretaries.*

SHAFTESBURY,
President.