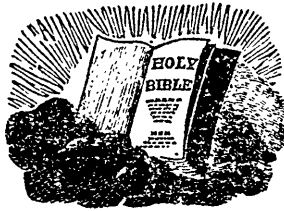


THE  
BIBLE ADVOCATE.

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OUR PRIVILEGES AND OUR OBLIGATIONS.

The following remarks are too valuable and striking to be confined to the pages of an Annual Report. Whether it be true (or not), as some one has sarcastically affirmed, that the best way to involve any thing in secrecy is to insert it in the report of some public institution, we conceive we are rendering a service to our readers by calling their attention to a series of thoughts which, perhaps, but few of them have seen or noticed, and which cannot fail to be interesting to every lover of the Bible. It has often struck us as desirable, when engaged in the distribution of this best of books, to pause, and ask ourselves how far we are under the influence of its truth and its spirit; lest while we are dispensing the bread of life to others, we forget or neglect to feed upon it ourselves. We are also in danger, while we enjoy the blessing, to restrict the use of it too much to ourselves, or become too little cognizant of the wants of others. The possession of a gift naturally imposes upon the receiver an obligation to the donor, corresponding to the value of the gift, and the relation in which the parties stand to each other. Now here is a

donation from heaven, a proof of God's unspeakable love to an ignorant and perishing world, containing instructions of the highest value, displaying the perfections of Jehovah in the brightest manner, and prompting us at once to gratitude and exertion. The extract is from a recent report of the British and Foreign Bible Society; and we mistake if our readers will not thank us for preserving it.

"It was in the year 1535 that the first edition of the entire English Bible was printed; an event so important to England as scarcely to allow a measure by which to form a just estimate of its importance. The happiness, the aggrandisement of the nation, all that is connected with her glory and her usefulness in the world, is identified and bound up with the free course which the Bible has been permitted to have in England. Her prosperity and her religion have been closely united, and the purity in which her religion has been maintained, is owing to the Bible being recognized as the standard of Divine Truth. Well is it said to our kings of England at their coronation, a moment happily selected for presenting them also with a copy of the Sacred Volume, 'This is God's best gift to man.' And surely, if by any, the centenaries of the first publication of the English Bible may be appropriately observed, by none more appropriately than the friends of the British and Foreign Bible Society. What a contrast does the retrospect afford?