

of the word of Truth. In almost every nation claiming any just title to civilized character, are there kindred institutions, having for their direct aim that all important object, which we are now assembled to promote.

The Report of the British and Foreign Bible Society for the year 1825, contains much intelligence of the highest interest. The funds of the Society were the largest that had ever been reported, being £107,926 Sterling.—Their expenditures for the year amounted to £84,249—while they were under prospective engagements to the amount of upwards of £69,000. It is stated that the number of Copies of the Scriptures issued from the commencement of the Society is 9,192,950.

The newly emancipated Slaves of the West Indies, the ceaseless ~~of~~ Emigrants to various parts of the Globe, the interesting inmates of numberless Sabbath Schools, and the dreary abodes of the unhappy Convict, have severally furnished ample fields for the expansive benevolence of this most admirable of human Institutions. While it has been the fruitful-parent of every similar Society now in existence, it has also given origin or impulse to numberless other pious and benevolent Associations, at this moment conducing to the happiness and improvement, and supplying the temporal and spiritual wants of the great human family.

Perhaps in no part of the vast sphere of the exertions of Bible Societies, have the blessings arising from their labours been more apparent, than in India; a land hitherto immersed in heathen darkness, but which at length is beginning to awaken from the slumber of death.

Dr. Wilson, the pious Bishop of Calcutta, in a letter dated in June last, to the Secretary of the Parent Society, writes—"India with its One Hundred and Thirty-four Millions of Hindoos and Mussulmen, under British Law, or British influence, waits for your labours; every Village has its school, and every child learns its letters, and acquires the faculty of reading and writing in its earliest years."

Amid this enormous population, are the Scriptures of Truth, thro' the means of Bible and other kindred Societies, now rapidly circulating in every variety of language or dialect that prevails throughout the vast Continent of India.

But we must turn from the contemplation of this magnificent spectacle of piety and beneficence, to consider the small, but not uninteresting field of our own labours.

We have not for some time past been favoured with reports from many of our Branch Societies.

In January, 1834, a number of the friends of the Bible cause at Economy, in the District of Colchester, met together and formed themselves into a Branch Society, of which the Rev. Andrew Kerr, was chosen President; when a subscription of *Eleven Pounds* was taken, and the Committee have since that time received remittances, which will appear in our accounts.