

Society enables it in the work of translation and of distribution to excel all other agencies : for why ? It is a rare gift for individuals to rise above their sectionalism and walk unencumbered by their own party lines, and it is scarcely ever a church frees itself from ecclesiasticism :—

“The form of things deceives us, and we quarrel o'er our creeds,
While each true heart receives the one truth its spirit needs.”

Few, if any, translations from out of the original tongues in which the Bible was written, but bear the mark of that section of the Church, or of the school from whence that translation came. Even our own noble Saxon version is not altogether free from ecclesiastical bias. “Give us,” said Chunder Sen, a leader of Hindoo thought, on his departure from England, whither he had gone to see the practical side of Christianity, as already, in the Bible, he had seen its Book ; “give us in India the Bible, that Word of God, but, oh ! give it to us without your divisions ; interpret it not for us by your sectarianisms, but give it to us that we may read it for ourselves.” This our Society is endeavouring to do. Composed of earnest men, irrespective of creed, employing those whose only requisites are ability and Christian zeal ; it gives, as far as man can give, to the scattered tribes of earth a Bible in their own tongue, as non-sectarian as the Prophets who foretold, and the Apostles who declared a suffering Saviour, have left us within the pages of Revelation. We want for earth, not an Anglican, Genevan, Lutheran or Calvinistic Bible, but the Word as transmitted to us by Apostles and Prophets, wherein every poor wandering soul may for himself recognise the voice—“This is the way, walk ye therein.”

Nor can the general reader enter into the extreme difficulty of translation. No light labour is it “to teach a foreign tongue the music of one's own ;” nor is the task lighter to render without paraphrase, the shades of Bible thought in plain speech of another language, a difficulty more than doubled by the fact that, in many cases, the language has, in great measure to be created, alphabet and grammar formed—in short the language of many tribes has first to be learned, then re-made and taught back ere the Bible can be given. These simple facts, which could be amplified almost without end, give, or should give, the Society a claim upon the Christian public, than which no prior one can be urged. In a future paper some of these points may be presented at greater length, in the meantime let the reader remember that the supply of cheap Bibles is not the Ultima Thule of the Bible Society work.

AGENCY AND VISITATION.

Our readers will see, by the accounts given in this number of the last two Board meetings, the action that has been taken by the Directors in modifying the system of Agency, Visitation, &c. It is, of course, impossible for them to meet the views and to carry out the suggestions of all the zealous friends of the Society ; but it is confidently hoped that the arrangements for this year will not only prove economical, but will