

reach of the people: while in Muhammadan and heathen countries, besides the large direct circulation by the Society's own men, copies are supplied on terms the least burdensome to the Missionary Societies, but proportionately costly to this Society. Should not its income be increased, the Committee may be most reluctantly compelled to ask the Missionary Societies to bear a larger share of the expense.

How disinclined the Committee have always been to issue appeals for money is shown in their infrequency. The last appeal was in 1879. When, however, they found that their expenditure had largely exceeded the receipts for four successive years, and that the deficit of the last year was the largest of all, amounting to £23,397, they felt it was their duty to make the Society's circumstances known to its numerous friends.

This they have done by publishing a statement of the Society's financial position, with an earnest appeal for generous assistance, copies of which have been forwarded to its friends and the Christian public.

The Committee, while thankful to record the receipt of donations amounting to £20,000 towards lessening the deficit, and providing against a probable deficiency in the current year, yet feel that the only permanent relief will be an increased income. The Committee, therefore, are applying to the friends of the Society for an additional £25,000 per annum. This would enable them to render the societies and individual workers the help they ask for, and at the same time carry on efficiently their own direct work throughout the world.

The Committee would be doing their warm Colonial friends an injustice were they not to afford them an opportunity of joining in this effort. They appreciate highly the generous support the Society receives from the great Colonies of Canada, the Cape of Good Hope and South-east Africa, Australia and New Zealand; and the Committee cherish the confident hope that their zealous Colonial friends will meet the urgent call now made to them with their habitual Christian liberality.

Among the methods of relief suggested, one proposed by the Bishop of Exeter at the Annual Meeting has met with general approval, and has been already acted upon by himself and many others. It is that all subscribers should give "half as much again." If this rule were universally adopted the Committee's difficulties would be at an end; but as every subscriber, however willing, would not be able to do this, the Committee trust that earnest effort will be put forth to obtain additional subscribers and to form new branches.

The Committee would guard their Colonial friends from supposing that they contemplate withdrawing from any country now occupied, or reducing the scale of the Society's operations. The insufficiency of income in recent years has produced anxiety, but not despondency. They are carrying out retrenchment of expenditure where it can be effected without injury to the work, but the Committee have no misgivings as to the future. While doing the Lord's work they know He will sustain them by inclining the hearts of His people to give them a larger and more prayerful support.

HARROWBY, *President.*

J. GURNEY BARCLAY, *Treasurer.*

CALEB R. KEMP, *Chairman of Committee.*

JOHN SHARP,  
W. MAJOR PAULL, } *Secretaries.*

146 QUEEN VICTORIA STREET,

LONDON, E.C.

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# THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL, AND THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

BY R. N. CUST.

My dear friend, Mr. Henry Morris, has recently described the different versions which the British and Foreign Bible Society has supplied for the Church Missionary Society, or rather has published for the use of all Missionary Societies and native Christian Churches, but made large use of by the Church Missionary Society in four portions of the globe, Asia, Africa, America and Oceania.\* There is another great Society, belonging to the Church of England, which has this year published its one hundred and ninetieth annual report, and which is largely indebted to the British and Foreign Bible Society for its supply of Scriptures in all the five portions of the world: I allude to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, which works with a double object—to convert non-Christians to Christianity, and to prevent Christians, such as emigrants, colonists, seafarers, and exiles, from falling away into heathendom.†

## EUROPE.

I. In Europe the agents of the S.P.G. supply themselves with translations, entirely or in part, from the British and Foreign Bible Society, in the Italian, Greek, French, Spanish, Portuguese and German languages, for the use of the congregations in connection with the permanent chaplaincies maintained by that Society in these countries. The supply may not be large, but it is important.

## ASIA.

II. In Asia a grander missionary work comes under our observation. For convenience I divide that continent into regions—(a) West Asia, (b) the East Indies and Indian Archipelago, (c) China and Japan. The S.P.G. has no missions in Arabic or Persian-speaking countries, but copies of translations in both those languages are required for their mission in the Bombay Province of West India. I divide the East Indies into five sub-regions—West India, North India, South India, Indo-China, and the Indian Archipelago. In Western India, amidst a population of Hindus and Mahometans, translations are supplied in the Maráthi language. In North India a great demand is experienced for translations in Bengáli, Hindi, Urdu and Mandári, or Kol, the latter a Kolarian language spoken by non-beliefs. The Bengáli, Hindi and Urdu are spoken by at least one hundred millions of Hindus and Mahometans in the basin of the River Ganges, and adjoining territories. In South India translations are supplied in Telugu, Tamil and Karnáta (vulgó Kanarese) to the flourishing Mission in that province, where there are Christians of the fourth generation. Translations are also available in the ancient dead language of North India, the Sanskrit, if required by learned inquirers. In the Island of Ceylon the S. P. G. Missions are supplied with the Bible in the Sinháli (vulgó Sinhalese) language, and a version in the Indian dialect of the Portuguese language is available if required. In the region of Indo-China the Bible Society is ready to supply the Bishop of Rangún and his missionaries with versions in the language of Burmá, and of the Karén tribe, in three dialects. In the great valley of Assam, where the River Brahmaputra emerges from the Himaláya

\*See the *Reporter* for May, 1892.

†My information is collected from the Annual Reports, a list of languages supplied from the Office of the Society, and from personal knowledge.