

all other efforts for the spread of Christ's kingdom, and to which all who love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity may, without offence, be heartily invited to give their benediction and aid.

The work of the Society may in a certain sense be said to be twofold—that of *translating*, and that of *circulating* the Word of God. The total number of *versions* in which it circulates the Bible is two hundred and seventeen; that number including those translations in existence before it was founded, or versions made by kindred societies, but which it assists in circulating. The new versions or translations which it has itself undertaken amount to no less than one hundred and eighty-seven.

During the seventy-five years of its existence, it claims to have circulated no less than eighty-two million copies of the Word of God, whether in whole or in portions; and it is important to remark the impartiality shown by it to the various Christian communions.

In Africa the Society prints at its own expense the translations of Bishop Steere, Dr. Moffatt, and Bishop Crowther. The Anglican Societies for the Propagation of the Gospel and the Church Missionary Society are mainly dependent on this Society for the Scriptures circulated by their agents, as likewise are the Missionary Societies of the voluntary bodies. It is also delightful to observe the watchful and robust activity with which every opening is seized and welcomed for pushing on the work.

When our Indian troops were in Malta they were supplied with Bibles in their various languages. When Cyprus came under the English sway, a colporteur was despatched there, who has met with great success and received the warm support of the Greek archbishop. During the Russo-Turkish War neither trouble nor money was spared to take the Bible to the soldiers in camp, the sick and wounded in hospital, and the prisoners of war. At the recent Paris Exhibition a large number of Bibles were sold and given away; and in every country in Europe, in towns and villages and scattered dwellings, which no other agency can reach, the agents of this Society circulate the Word of Life.

There is yet one agency more of this Society, to which not to refer to-day (when we are still mourning for one into whose heart God put it to set it going, and by whose indomitable energy, mellow judgment, and sunny kindness, its great success, under God, was due) would be an unpardonable, if not an impossible, omission. I mean the Bible mission work among the poor of London, originated just twenty years ago in the parish of St. Giles, of which I for ten years was permitted to be rector, and the growth of which I have had the opportunity of watching and assisting from that time till now. During twenty-one years no less than one hundred and seventy-six thousand Bibles have been sold to the poor, many of them family Bibles paid for by dribblets of slow earnings extending over months. To this agency the Bible Society has contributed over £10,000 in grants of Bibles; and I leave you to judge for yourselves, who know what the Bible is to you, who can guess what other blessings of comfort, and prudence, and cleanliness, and even physical happiness true religion usually brings with it, what light to saddened hearts, what sweetness to morose temper, what hope for crushed lives, what spring and energy to wills paralyzed by despair, what peace to sad consciences, what pureness to soiled and debased spirits, this book has brought to the homes of the London poor. Had I time or you patience, I could tell you of the awful words of gladness when the story of the Passion was first told them, as a very message from the skies; the slow lifting off as of a cloud of frozen bitterness from the heart when it was first explained that God really loved them, and that the Bible is His message of that love; of real and abiding transformation, enough, and more than enough, to make up for bitter and sickening disappointments; of families once wretched and squalid made bright and united through the message of the Gospel of peace. Let the Bible do its work, by itself, and as God sees fit, and it shall yet prove to be the instrument as well as the history of how God can raise the dead.