

metan power is tottering, and ready to fall! When it dies and is buried, who will wear mourning at its funeral?

And how strange is the meeting between the distant East and West, the distant past and near present, visible in the fact, that it is missionaries from America who now unveil to the dwellers in the land of the Chaldees, and to the wanderers among the mountains which shadow the birthplace of the human race, that blessed faith and hope which dwelt in Abram, as he journeyed at the dawn of history from that old land, and which has returned thither again in Christian men embued with Abram's faith, after having accompanied civilization around the globe! God's blessing has signally attended the American mission among the Nestorians. The revival of religion in their schools and churches has been great and glorious.

To all these facts we must add the labours of the Church during the last sixty years in the salvation of *Israel*. Much, very much, has been accomplished, in spite of immense difficulties, by upwards of twenty-six societies; and it has been computed that no fewer than 8000 have, during the above period, been added to the Church of Christ.

May we not exclaim, What hath God wrought! Yet how can any statistics carry to our hearts a sense of what has been done for immortal souls by the gospel during this eventful period? What homes have been made happy by it; what families united in the bonds of love; what sick-beds soothed; what dying beds cheered; what minds illumined, and what hearts filled with joy unspeakable, and full of glory!

The British and Foreign Bible Society may be adduced as forming the most remarkable illustration of the progress made during the present century, in leavening the world with the Word of God. Previous to its formation, in 1804, there was not one society in existence, whose sole object was the distribution of the Bible in all lands. There are now upwards of 50 principal and 9000 auxiliary Bible Societies. In 1804, the Bible was accessible to only 800 millions of men. Now it exists in tongues spoken by 600 millions. The London Bible Society alone sends forth annually upwards of 1,787,000 copies.

During the last sixty years it has issued 39,315,226 Bibles, in 163 different languages and in 143 translations never before printed. Its receipts for 1862 amount to £168,443.

It surely cannot fail to fill the heart of every Christian with deepest thankfulness, to contemplate the glorious achievements of the last sixty years, in circulating the Word of God. The Church, like the angel seen in prophetic vision, has been flying with the everlasting gospel to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people. It has given the Bible to the inhabitants of the old lands of Egypt, Ethiopia, Arabia, Palestine, Asia Minor, and Persia; to the indomitable Circassian; the mountaineers of Afghanistan; to tribes of India speaking thirty-two different languages or dialects; to the inhabitants of Burmah, Assam, and Siam; to the islanders of Madagascar and Ceylon; to the Malays and Javanese of the eastern seas; to the millions of China, and the wandering Kalmuck beyond her great wall; to the brave New Zealander; to the teeming inhabitants of the island groups which are scattered over the Southern Pacific; to the African races, from the Cape to Sierra Leone; to the Esquimaux and Greenlander, within the Arctic circle; and to the Indian tribes of North America. All are now furnished with a translation of that wonderful volume, which, with the light of the universal living Spirit of God, at once reveals to man, in every age and clime, his lost and miserable condition, and tells him of a remedy that is adapted to meet every want of his being,—to redeem him, by a moral power it alone can afford, from all sin and misery, and to bring him into the glorious fellowship of the holiness, the blessedness, and joy of Jesus Christ, and all the family of God in earth and heaven!

But the labours of the TRACT SOCIETIES, during the last sixty years, also deserve our attention.

Foremost in this great work has been the Religious Tract Society of London. That Society was formed in 1799. During the first year of its operations, ending in May, 1800, it had issued 200,000 tracts. What is its present working power! Its annual income from sales, and benevolent contributions (£12,500), is £95,000. Its annual distribution of tracts, including hand-