

Society received in fresh income for the year £114,284 14s. 1d. This is less by £1,560 14s. 3d. than the corresponding figure in 1891; but the decrease did not arise in England or Wales.

Meantime the sum converted into Scriptures during the year to meet growing demands, largely from mission fields, has been £117,402 4s. 3d., or £1,122 1s. 3d. more than in 1891, and more by £3,117 10s. 2d. than the entire *new* income received from the Christian Churches of the world within the same time. The Committee felt that supplies of the Word of God must not be withheld. These are not days when the book to which the soul must go for light and truth, for direction and comfort, should be more sparingly provided than heretofore. Least of all should this be so for mission lands. The centenary of the Baptist Missionary Society this year, followed as it will be by the centenaries of other societies, will inaugurate a fresh era of more rapid advance in them than before.

If those whose zeal for missions is now so happily kindling more and more will realize that their liberality to Missionary Societies soon leads to larger demands on the Bible Society, and will also help it more generously to meet these demands, the case will be met.

As has already been stated, more than the whole of its *new* income for the year has again been invested by the Bible Society in copies of the Scriptures in many tongues. How then have the working expenses of the year been met? How have the Foreign Agencies and the depôts, and the colporteurs and the Biblewomen been sustained? How has the difference between the cost of the books and the prices obtained for them, especially in Foreign Missions, been made up? How have grants in money, or in printing paper, or in Scriptures for Sunday schools and Mission-rooms, and numberless good institutions been supplied? The other branch of a year's gross receipts has had to bear all these charges so far as it could. It consists of that portion of the income of past years which returns to hand through the payments for books which it had been spent to produce.

For the year just ended, although the total circulation was numerically greater than in the year before, the receipts from sales were less by £4,305 13s. 1d. than those in 1891. They reached £96,871 15s. 8d.. Uniting this sum with the *new* income previously stated, and adding to them £111 2s. 0d. for the Roxburgh Colportage Fund, and £116 18s. 3d. contributed to the Special Fund for printing Scriptures, we get £211,384 10s. 0d. as the gross receipts of old and new money for the year. On the other hand, the gross expenditure of all kinds came to £234,782 4s. 2d., leaving a deficit of £23,397 14s. 2d. This, like its predecessors, has been met for the time from the capital retained in more prosperous years to meet working expenses.

With liabilities so vast, the Committee feel that the Society's working capital must not be exposed to the risk of still further reduction to meet a large deficit next year. Again and again during the year now gone, they have been sifting the accounts to discover any reducible expenditure. Minor retrenchments have begun to be put in force. These must quickly be followed by much larger curtailments of generosity in supplying Scriptures at home and abroad, if there be not a speedy and decided change in that disproportion between receipts and charges which the last four years have shown. They rely on the efforts of the Society's friends to avert retrogression.

Encouraging reports on the work achieved in country after country will be found summarised in this Abstract. Suffice it here to give but a single instance of a special kind illustrating one branch of the help which is being given to Missions by this Society.

For eight years it has placed grants at the service of the Missionary Societies for the maintenance of additional female agency to get the Scriptures into the hands of the secluded and untaught women of the East. This plan was thought the surest way for hastening the wider circulation and the deeper influence of the Bible in countries like India. Where the obstacles to be overcome are so