

good result of that, the *only* foundation in Scotland which enables a young man to carry on his studies at an English University. Were similar exhibitions (*Scotice* "bursaries") attached to our College or schools in Edinburgh, there is abundance of talent and superabundance of industry and perseverance amongst our students to secure their success at Oxford or Cambridge. It is only the miserable encouragement held out in this part of the kingdom to classical studies, whether as regards master or pupils, that prevents them from competing successfully with the *élite* of any of our English Universities. One Mr. Snell would do more real service to Edinburgh and Scotland than half-a-dozen Mr. Donaldsons. Why should not some of our generous and noble-minded citizens take a hint from Glasgow, and found bursaries instead of hospitals to immortalise their names? They can need no greater encouragement than the fact announced in this day's *Times*, that two Glasgow students have beaten the whole body of undergraduates (some two thousand) in Oxford; and that in an examination in pure scholarship, *not* embracing history, metaphysics, or mathematics.

I am, &c.,

JAMES S. HODSON, D.D. Oxon.,
Rector of the Academy.

THE BIBLE FOR INDIA.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

SPECIAL FUND.

We doubt not but good will be the result of the present terrible upheaving in India. Light will come out of darkness. The designs of the wicked will be overruled for good, and peace will be restored to that unhappy land, which will be made glad with the tidings of peace and good-will to men. We believe that the rule of Britain will henceforth be more consistent with its position as a Christian power. The interest of the British people is thoroughly aroused, and the various religious societies are concerting measures for the spread of the Gospel in India. We have before mentioned that the Bible Society had determined to do somewhat, and we now insert their appeal for a "Special Bible Fund for India." We add nothing to this appeal, it speaks for itself. We will have pleasure in taking charge of any contributions for this desirable effort.

THE COMMITTEE of the BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY have been watching with peculiar interest the present course of events in India,—India, the scene of some of the Society's earliest and most interesting labours in respect both to the translation and circulation of the Holy Scriptures. The Bible, after a struggle for entrance, has been gradually working its way in India, and now unfolds its revelations in all the principal languages and dialects of that mighty Empire. Valuable and efficient Auxiliaries in the several Presidencies have been long and diligently engaged in the same important field of operation, and, through the blessing of God, with a gratifying amount of success. During the last half century numerous editions of the Scriptures in the native languages have passed through the press, and in the same period not fewer than two millions five hundred thousand copies of the whole, or parts of the Bible, have been placed in the hands of the people. This amount of circulation has been effected irrespective of the labours

of the Baptist Translation and Missionary Societies, and various Missionary Agents from the United States of America. Yet, after all, how meagre and insufficient the supply thus furnished for the teeming myriads of India's ignorant, deluded and debased population!

The Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society have long been desirous to do more for India. Much correspondence has at different times taken place with their active Auxiliaries and other friends of the Bible in that country, with a view to the extension of the work. Large grants of Scriptures, Printing and Binding Materials, as well as money, have been freely voted by the Committee, and various measures recommended for the wider dissemination of Divine truth, such as exploratory tours for the express object of Bible distribution, and an enlarged general system of Colportage by Native Christian Agency.

In the inscrutable providence of Almighty God a new era now appears opening upon India. The fearful and criminal catastrophe which has spread such terror and cruel suffering through some of its fairest provinces, and which has filled the whole empire with consternation, has evidently impressed on the British public of all classes and religious denominations the conviction that more must be done, much more than has hitherto even been attempted, towards diffusing the benign and sanctifying influences of Christianity over our Indian possessions and dependencies; that the Bible, which has done so much for Britain, is one of the great means of blessing needed for India; and that, whatever new and vigorous agencies may be called into operation, the Bible must occupy the prominent and foremost place.

This necessarily casts an increased responsibility on the Bible Society. That responsibility the Committee desire fully and solemnly to recognise. They feel assured that their constituents and the Christian public generally would deem them guilty of a grave dereliction of duty, if they were not prompt to provide for and to meet every claim as it may arise. In the discharge, however, of these obligations the Committee may have to draw largely on the liberality as well as the sympathy of their supporters. They are aware that measures are already in preparation by the leading Missionary Societies for increasing the number of their Agents, and that comprehensive plans of Christian Education are likely to be attempted; and, while they rejoice in the fact of such efforts being contemplated, they also feel that their effectiveness will materially depend upon the ready aid and vigorous co-operation of the Bible Society. The Committee, moreover, cannot forbear the expression of their fervent hope that the restrictions which have closed the Government Schools against the free use of the Scriptures may be speedily removed, and thus a wide scope be afforded for the introduction of the Bible amongst the youth of India. And, above all, if He who has the hearts of all men in His hands should in great mercy dispose the native mind at large to give a welcome to Christian Instruction, there will be an opening for the Scriptures both in the Asiatic and European languages to an unprecedented extent, of which it is of the utmost importance that this Society should be fully prepared to take every advantage. It may not be inopportune, also, to state that heavy losses have been sustained by the destruction of books, paper, printing and binding materials, etc. This has been the case at Agra, as will be seen by the subjoined letter; also at Loodianah, Allahabad, and other places where depôts of the Scriptures have been established.

It is in view of the immediate indispensable outlay to cover actual losses, and all perspective demands likely to arise, that the Committee,

after careful deliberation, recommend the raising of a *Special Bible Fund for India*. In advising this step at the present juncture, they are governed no less by the suggestions and wishes of many earnest and influential friends throughout the country than by the promptings of their own judgment and feelings. They now commend their appeal to all who desire the spread of Bible truth in every portion of the British dominions, adding the prayer that He, whose blessing can give success to this and every other design of His servants, may by His Spirit cause His word to have free course and be glorified, till India in all her tribes and languages shall acknowledge the one Lord and Redeemer of men.

Signed on behalf of the Committee—

SHAFTESBURY, *President*.
JOHN MEE, }
S. B. BERGNE, } *Secretaries*.

10, EARL STREET, BLACKFRIARS, LONDON,

MEETING OF SYNOD.

The Annual Session of the Synod of our Church will be held in St. Andrew's Church in this City on Wednesday the 26th of May instant. We trust there will then be a numerous attendance of both Ministers and Elders. We have been glad to notice that latterly a larger number of Laymen have taken part in the deliberations of this, the highest judicatory of our Church. It is their duty to exercise the right of sitting and voting in Synod, which the Presbyterian constitution of our Church confers upon them, and we hope that a still larger number of Elders will yearly attend this Court. Arrangements are in progress to secure travel to and from the meeting by railway and steamer at a reduced rate, and also to provide accommodation for such members of Court as may feel disposed to accept of the hospitality of friends of the Church.

The business of the Synod is yearly increasing in extent and importance, and many matters of importance are likely to engage the attention of the Court. One that is of essential importance is the devising of means to secure an addition to the number of our ministry. We do not exaggerate when we assert our belief that we would require 50 additional labourers to fill the many vacancies and new stations opening up before our Church. The additions to our Roll from Scotland have this year been a very welcome aid, and we hope we shall continue to receive many from that source. Yet we must look to our own country for the full supply of our charges, and in this view Queen's College must assume an attitude of much importance. The securing of its efficiency and maintaining of its reputation in scholarship are subjects that must always command the deepest interest in the minds of all lovers of our Zion.

The various Missionary efforts of the Church will no doubt receive consideration.

The Juvenile Mission has attained a large measure of success. The efforts of its young promoters read a lesson to the older members of the Church and afford a prac-