

them both pass : may we not serve Christ the better for them both, and be assured that all God's servants, the sorrowful as well as the glad ones, work "hand to hand" for the good of those who love Him ?

Here is an extract from the recent report of the Basle Missionary Society, referring to its work in the East Indies. It must be read with sincere sympathy by all who have followed the accounts given in the Society's own Report and elsewhere of the womanly but difficult work of Biblewomen for their neglected sisters :—

"Especially do we ask for the prayers and sympathies of our friends on behalf of our Biblewomen. Although they meet with much that tends to dishearten and discourage them while making their house-to-house visits, still they too can tell of many pleasant, joyful and encouraging experiences which prove that their labour is not in vain, as here and there the Gospel message throws into heathen darkness a ray of light which would never have entered there but for such women's work among women. We are therefore most thankful for the assistance received from the Bible Society, that has enabled us to take up and carry on this important work hitherto."

The annual meeting of the Exeter branch of the Society was held in October, and the reports of the year show an advance—slight but so far welcome—on both the contributions and the circulation of the previous year. In his address as chairman, Earl Fortescue made a plea which should be laid to heart, and which came from his lips with special authority. The great benefit, he said, connected with the operations of the Society, which commended itself so much to his sympathies, was its earnestly Christian and thoroughly unsectarian character. He was sorry to say that in his old age he had observed a decided, though gradual, increase of the spirit of sectarianism. When he contemplated the internecine conflicts of Christians of different denominations in the presence of the augmented efforts and growing boldness of the infidel assaults, he was reminded of the conflicts of the various factions within the walls of Jerusalem, whilst the Roman soldiers, besieging them from without, were constantly drawing their line of impenetrable iron tighter around the doomed city. The evil results to the cause of Christianity from these internecine struggles, in diverting attention from the defence and assault against the common foe, was to him a melancholy spectacle. But the British and Foreign Bible Society, and the Young Men's Christian Association, were two agencies that seemed to him to be completely divested of anything like sectarianism. They appeared to have realized the essential unity and co-operation which ought to characterize Christians, and especially Protestant Christians. In this noble Bible Society might be found the grandest example, on the greatest scale, of, if not general Christian union, at least general and hearty co-operation in the work of spreading the Word of God.

I attribute my illumination entirely and simply to the reading of a book. Yes, and it is an old, homely book, modest as nature, also as natural as she herself—a book which has a work-a-day and unassuming look like the sun which warms us, like the bread which nourishes us—a book which looks at us as cordially and blessingly as the old grandmother who daily reads in it with her dear trembling lips and with her spectacles on her nose ; and this book is called shortly *the book*, the Bib'. With right is this named the Holy Scripture ; he who has lost his G can find Him again in this book, and he who has never known Him is h struck by the breath of the divine word.—*Heinrich Heine*.