

FOURTH ADDRESS.

What Remains to be Done—The Future of the Bible Society.

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There are two ways in which we can measure the influence of the Bible,—viz., intensively, and extensively. Looked at from one point of view it is the leaven placed in the three measures of meal. We take into account its influence upon individual character and upon the ideals and habits of a nation. We mark its effect upon home life, upon art, and business and politics. Looked at from the other point of view it is seed cast forth upon the soil of the world, and we watch the larger and larger areas that are open to the sowers.

It is this latter point of view that the Bible Society lays stress upon. Its aim is to make the Bible accessible to all mankind. As there is bread for all, and water and air, so there is to be a Bible for every one. It is to be recognized as having a place among the universal and easily accessible blessings of humanity.

The full implications of this aim we see now more plainly than the writers of the Bible were able to see them. It is probable that not one of these writers lived more than three or four hundred miles from the Mediterranean Sea, and the majority of them less than one hundred miles. What lay beyond their visible horizon, what nations, what civilizations, what varieties of humanity, it was beyond their power to conjecture. The members of the Bible Society know. The people of the world are counted. Caesar Augustus' census of the Roman Empire has been improved upon by computations that embrace the whole human family. We know what it means to give the Bible to the whole world, in what cities it has to be circulated, in what vast territories it has to be dissem-