

established. The excellent Joseph Reyner was appointed treasurer, and the Rev. Joseph Hughes the Secretary.

At the commencement of the Society, all its plans had to be tried. It was the day of experiment. Hannah More, in England, and John Campbell, in Scotland, had both found the advantages of small tracts, and their examples may have suggested the first thought to the mind of Mr. Burder. It is only necessary to refer to two points connected with the principles of the Society, as settled at its formation, to show the love for evangelical truth and Christian charity of its founders. The first point was, the determination that the publications should not be sectarian; and the other, that every tract should contain a clear statement of the way of a sinner's salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. These two great principles, which are clearly set forth in the tract No. 1, have been the safety and the glory of the Institution. They have shown that there is common ground on which all the true followers of the Redeemer can meet, to make known to a perishing world "the glorious Gospel of the blessed God."

The progress of the Society will be seen by a few simple statements. During the first year of the Society's operations, the total circulation of its works amounted only to 200,000, and its receipts, including sales, 450*l*. During the last year, the circulation amounted to 20,000,000 of books and tracts, and the total receipts to 52,605*l*. In the first year the publications of the Institution made known the Gospel only in the English language, but now the Society could state that in about 94 languages and dialects it had proclaimed "the unsearchable riches of Christ." At the time when the venerable man who had led the devotions of the morning first joined the Institution, only 200,000 little tracts had been sent forth, but now the same friend united in the thanksgivings of many that 377,000,000 of tracts and books, in various languages, had been sent forth for the benefit of the world. At the time when the first report was presented, the total annual circulation of the Society was only 200,000 tracts, but now its weekly issues average 384,600, and its daily circulation 64,000. What hath God wrought!

Another view of the progress of the Society might be taken. At first the Depository was kept in Stationers'-court, and then at No. 60, Paternoster-row, where one room and a small cellar were sufficient for its business purposes; then a house was taken for a short time in Newgate-street. In 1821, the Society obtained No. 56, Paternoster-row; this place soon became too small; No. 57 was secured, and warehouses taken in Ivy-lane, then No. 55, Paternoster-row, afterwards No. 54; and now all the Society's premises in Paternoster-row, with four houses in the rear of them in Chapter-house Court, had been taken down, and substantial warehouses would be erected on the site, to secure increased and permanent accommodation.

While this latter statement gave an interesting view of the progress of the Society, it was an important question to be considered, whether or not a new building was really necessary for the Society's objects. During the last twelve years, sums averaging 300*l*. per annum had been expended upon the premises, notwithstanding which, the dilapidations were considerable. The princi-

pal walls had given way, and, on a careful examination of the houses by two competent surveyors, the Committee were advised to rebuild the premises without delay. On the recent removal of the houses, the Committee were fully satisfied with the steps they were advised to take, it having been found that the principal timbers were decayed, and could not have sustained the houses much longer. When the new building is finished, it will be well adapted to the Society's purposes, afford considerably increased accommodation for its objects, and effect a saving in rent of 180*l*. per annum.

In conclusion, Mr. Jones referred to the excellent Leigh Richmond, and other departed supporters of the Institution, who, though dead, still speak in the works they have left behind. He also mentioned that he could not allow the opportunity to pass without reminding the friends present that in the Committee of the Religious Tract Society originated the British and Foreign Bible Society. All the minutes connected with that important Institution up to the very day of its formation are contained in the early records of this Society. No one, therefore, could hear the statements which had been made, and the result which had followed the carrying out of the thought of a good man, without exclaiming, "Who hath despised the day of small things!"

After this statement, prayer was offered by the Society's clerical secretary; when the Committee and friends proceeded to the site of the new buildings, where they were received by the Society's architect and builder. The first stone was laid by Samuel Hoare, Esq. The friends then returned to the Committee-room, when the engagements of the morning were terminated by the Rev. Thomas James reading the eighth chapter of Deuteronomy and offering up the concluding prayer.

#### APPEAL.

The Committee having to incur the heavy expense of, at least, 12,000*l*. in the new erections and the necessary fixtures, look with confidence to the Christian public for their kind assistance in this work. They have been able to put aside about 5000*l*. towards this large outlay, notwithstanding they have devoted to the Society's foreign objects during the last eight years upwards of 16,000*l*. beyond the total amount of the subscriptions, donations, and contributions placed at their disposal. It is not their wish, even in future years, to devote any part of their benevolent funds to the building expenses and business objects of the Society, but to give them entirely to the Society's gratuitous objects, without any deduction for agency and expenses. If this be done, it will be *vident* the Society needs the help of its friends, to prevent a heavy outstanding debt, and the long withdrawal of supplies to the foreign objects, which are now opening with increased interest in most parts of the world. The Committee, therefore, respectfully and urgently appeal to the Society's numerous friends to help them in their present important undertaking.

#### APOSTACY OF MAN FROM GOD.

The following extract from Howe's "*Living Temple*" claims an attentive perusal. It is a beautiful specimen of the magnificent loftiness