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THE OBJECT OF OUR SOCIETY.

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• To buy in the cheapest market and sell in the dearest is the world's maxim of business. The mercantile spirit rules. The tendency to weigh all things by profit and loss is found among even intelligent people in the matter of the Bible Society's work, which is judged to be the supplying of cheap Bibles; so that when a Testament can be obtained for five cents, a Bible for fifteen, the climax is reached, the work done. Such judgments keep out of mind that the Gospel is not to be valued at a market price. "It is of more worth than rubies, and all the things thou canst desire are *not to be compared* with her."

Recognising the truth that where the Word of God is not, no Gospel is; and, as the foundation of all church work must be the Bible, the Bible Society has set itself to work to supply that word—to spread that Book.

This is its *one work*, which, with single eye, it keeps in view; cheapening the copies thereof is only one of the means it uses to accomplish that end; nor need we press, at this stage of its work, how thoroughly and successfully that means has been used and applied.

To missions such as those of the Jesuits, *e.g.* along the Mississippi or among the wild tribes of the St. Lawrence Indians, whose implicit faith in Rome and a reception of the baptismal rite were synonymous with conversion, the Bible would be of little consequence, but where faith in a personal Saviour, and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus are necessities, the Bible must precede, or at least accompany the missionary. Hence the Bible Society is the pioneer of all Protestant missions. The non-sectarian character of the