

tribute an enormous number of these sixpenny Bibles and penny Testaments. Of the latter 955,169 copies were sold in eight and a half months."

"This must mean a large printing and binding business as well as the work of translation and distribution?"

"Not at all. All our printing and binding is done by contract except the Scriptures for the blind, which are specialties and produced by us according to the two systems in vogue. All the rest of the printing is done by contract not of course all in London, but some in Australia and elsewhere, at the nearest convenient spot."

"I see by the screen before me that the variety of languages and dialects in which the society publishes is very great."

"About the time when the society was founded, translations of the Bible, or of parts of it, existed in about fifty languages. Since then the society has promoted directly or indirectly, the production and distribution of the Scriptures in 206 languages and dialects. Our present list includes many which have recently been reduced to grammatical form. Of these many are African and Polynesian. Africa has been greatly studied of late, and is very interesting to those having the gift of languages, on account of the numerous groups spread, and in some instances scattered, over that great continent—as the Semitic group, including among others Arabic and Amharic, some of which extend from the north far into the interior; the Hamitic group of Coptic and the rest; and the Nuba-Fulah group, which, together with the two first mentioned and the Negro group, occupies Northern Africa nearly down to the equator; the great Bantu group, which, with the Hottentot, occupies Southern Africa; and Malagasy, which, again, belongs to the Malay group. Considerable progress has been made in the translation of the Scriptures into the language of Dahomey. From Basutoland we have received £100 as the proceeds of sale, during the last year, of the Scriptures in the Sesuto language; large portions have been translated into the Swahili language and sent to Zanzibar; a fount of type costing £120 has been specially cast for an edition of the Bible in Amharic to be exported to Abyssinia; the sales in Malagasy have been nearly as large as those in Sesuto. Mauritius requires the Bible, or portions of it in several languages, French, Mauritian, Hindi—the language of the great North Indian Valley, and Tamil—the language of the great South Indian plain. In Hindostan itself the larger Christian communities lie in the southern part of the peninsula, in Tinnevely; and the Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and Canarese are the most Christian tongues in India. You will not be surprised to hear of Archdeacon Maunsell's Maori Bible, now in course of revision, but you may not be aware that Mr. Lawes and Mr. Macfarlane are making rapid progress in translating portions of Scripture into the languages of New Guinea, Saibai, and other islands, or that the gospel of St. John is being published in a compromise dialect of the New Hebrides. You are aware of a Fiji Bible, but we also have copies of the Gospels in the tongues of Eromanga and Nguna, and Mr. Creagh is revising the Bible in Lifu, in the Loyalty Islands. A new edition of the Tongan Bible has left the press; we have the Scriptures in Samoan, and Savage Island or Niue has been supplied for some time with the New Testament, and now receives the Old Testament book by book as completed. Mr. Lawes says, 'The people are very pleased with the Pentateuch, three of the books being new to them.' Tahiti also takes a large number of Bibles. The new pocket edition has been a great success.

It is very interesting to inspect under Mr. Finch's guidance the immense stock of various Bibles, Testaments, Psalms, and other portions of the Scripture ready to be expedited from the Bible House in hundredweights and tons. It is not, however, entirely a wholesale concern, for any customer is served with any single volume in the retail office set apart for that purpose. But the principal work done is comparatively wholesale, and in addition to a large staff of clerks there are packers filling cases and lowering them. An