

In this brief introductory address I must not forget to say that the members of our Society have learned with great satisfaction that the buildings and grounds of the Exposition are to be closed on the Lord's day. We thank the Commission for the unequivocal and so nearly unanimous decision of this question. We are not ignorant that many gentlemen of high standing and respectability differ from the Commission on this subject; but the resolutions which were adopted at a recent meeting in this house in favour of opening the Exposition on the first day of the week, seem to an average layman to contain better rhetoric than logic. They propose "to promote the cause of religion and morality" by secularizing the Christian Sabbath, and to restrain vicious people from violating privately certain commands of God by inviting them publicly to violate another command of God. But they will at least give the Commission credit for having been influenced by higher motives than a commutation of half dollars to be paid at the gate. They cannot but entertain respect for men who have sacrificed interest to principle, and popularity with many worthy people to reverence for the laws of God and the Commonwealth.

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## TWO NEW VERSIONS.

The friends of the Society will learn with pleasure that an opening has just presented itself for preparing the Scriptures in

### THE BALINESE.

a language spoken by the natives of Bali, an island of some 800,000 inhabitants, in the Indian Archipelago.

The island, which abounds in lofty volcanic mountains, interspersed with extensive and well-watered valleys, is occupied by a handsome race, but one sadly enervated by the use of opium and by vicious indulgence. The Rev. R. Van Eck was sent thither some years ago by the Utrecht Missionary Society, and for eleven years he laboured devotedly amongst a population whose religion is partly Buddhism and partly Fetichism, the number of Mohammedans being small. Through the enquiries of Mr. H. J. Reessé, the Society's Agent for Holland, Mr. Van Eck's high qualifications for the work of Bible translation were discovered, and the Committee at once opened negotiations. He proposed to begin on a single Gospel, and then, if the work prospered, proceed to the entire New Testament, following the Greek Text in general accordance with the version of the Dutch Reformed Church. Great care would need to be taken with ceremonial terms, since in the Balinese, as in the language of Burmah, distinct sets of words are employed for the common acts of life, according as they are performed by ordinary folk or by the superior classes. Mr. Van Eck has already published a vocabulary and essays on the study of the Balinese language, works that have met with the commendation of scholars; and the Committee have now requested him to prepare the Gospel according to St. Mark, in the hope that this may lead the way to a translation of a larger part of the Word of God.

### THE WOGULIAN.

In this instance, a tribe in the far North has now the prospect of obtaining a portion of the Scriptures in its scarce-known tongue. The Wogulians dwell in Western Siberia, in a district between Tobolsk and the Ural Mountains. We are told in *The Bible in every Land* that "the Protohiery (or Primate) Teletzyn, in concert with the clergy of his diocese, undertook a translation of the Scriptures into Wogulian, and in 1820 the Gospels of St. Matthew and St. Mark were translated and ready for the press. The MS. was submitted to the Tobolsk Bible Committee, by whom it was forwarded to the Russian Bible Society, but it does not appear to have ever been printed; so