

His blood, and all the fulness and completeness of His justification. In a moment I believed and received the gospel." That moment gave birth to the Olney Hymns, and to all the years of happiness which ever shone on the checkered path of William Cowper.

"The thing that astonishes me in the gospel is that *God is Love*:" so exclaimed a converted African.

And the text which first filled with joy unspeakable the capacious soul of President Edwards was: "Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen." He says, "As I read these words there came into my soul, and was diffused through it, a sense of the glory of the Divine Being. Never any words of Scripture seemed to me as these words did. I thought with myself, how excellent a Being that was, and how happy I should be if I might enjoy that God, and be wafted up to Him in heaven, and be, as it were, swallowed up in Him for evermore."

THE WORK AND THE CLAIMS OF THE BIBLE SOCIETY.

BY THE REV. CANON CROSS, D.D.

Like the Bible itself, the Bible Society's aim is definitely one, while her constitution is unrestricted, and her work is emphatically manifold. She stands outside of, and in a certain degree unconnected with, all the spiritual organizations which are the expression of the Christian zeal and energy of the great Anglo-Saxon race. But, as a friend to all, she carries on her world-wide work with cautious discrimination and with unflinching earnestness. Few are the manifestations of Christian effort at home which do not obtain from her large and helpful support. From the details of a single month's labours, we find supplied by her kindly lavish bounty, the wants of Sunday schools and mission rooms, of night schools and hospital wards, of soldiers' and sailors' Homes; of our navvies, our police, our telegraph clerks, our deaf and dumb, and our blind. And when we look outside our island home, we watch her, in the patient and scholarly labour of her translators, and in the untiring energy of her agents, endeavouring to fulfil her noble mission of making the tribes of earth to hear, each in their own tongue, the wonderful works of God. When her labours began, some eighty-four years ago, there were in all the world less than fifty available versions of the Holy Scriptures, while they have since been printed and circulated by the Society, at least to the extent of a single book of the Bible, in above two hundred and eighty versions. The entire Bible is to be had in all the great languages of the world, and parts of it in a large portion of the dialects of even the obscurer races.

From these large and ever increasing stores she supplies with no grudging hand the wants of our great Missionary Societies: the venerable Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, for instance, depending on her for perhaps forty translations; while the Church Missionary Society owes to her the provision of some seventy translations not otherwise obtainable. At her own expense she printed Bishop Steere's translation of the New Testament in that Swahili language which, according to Cameron, runs current over the whole width of Africa; while New Testaments, sanctioned and printed for the Society by the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Russian Church, are making their way through the great Russian empire from one end of it to the other. Of its labours in Japan and China, in Malaysia and India, in Persia and Turkey, in Africa and Australia, there is but little need to speak. Every year fresh openings are made, fresh calls sound aloud, fresh opportunities are presented. And all the time the painful story of funds decreasing in the matter of contributions through Auxiliaries from living supporters at