

and his own sacred Syriac. On leaving, he shook hands warmly with the Secretaries and Mr. Girdlestone, and praised God for all he had seen and heard.—*B. S. Reporter.*

### “ LUTHER'S FIRST STUDY OF THE BIBLE.”

A large number of ladies and gentlemen met recently at the house of the British and Foreign Bible Society, London, on the occasion of the presentation to the Society of Mr. Ward's celebrated picture of “ Luther's First Study of the Bible.” The Earl of Shaftesbury took the chair. The picture to be presented was hung on the wall of the staircase, immediately opposite the entrance door of the large room where the meeting was held, and the doors being open, it was in full view of all assembled. The proceedings having been opened by the Rev. Charles Jackson with prayer.

The chairman said :—Ladies and Gentlemen, a very few preliminary words from me will suffice. You have all, no doubt, seen the very fine picture on the staircase. That picture, entitled “ Luther's First Study of the Bible,” has been purchased by a large number of subscribers, who desired to present it to this Society. I think that you will all agree with me that a more appropriate gift could not be made, and that a more appropriate place could not be found for it.

The Rev. S. B. Bergne then read a brief statement, dealing with the rise and progress of the Society's operations in Germany, and showing the amazing extent to which the translation of Luther had been dispersed through its agency, not only in the Fatherland of the Protestant Reformation, and in those sections of the Austrian Empire where German is the prevailing vernacular, but in other countries far and near, where the German race has sought for itself a home.

From statistics furnished it appeared that the British and Foreign Bible Society had printed in German—Bibles 2,476,240, Testaments 6,098,615, Portions, 878,182—or a total of 9,453,537. Of these the vast proportion were according to the version of Luther, which holds the same place of honour and influence in Germany, that our own fondly cherished authorized version holds in England, and wherever the English language is spoken.

The Hon. A. Kinnaird, M. P., then presented the picture to the Society through the President.

The Chairman said :—Ladies and Gentlemen, as President of this most noble Society, it is now my duty to accept, on your behalf, the gift which has been proffered to us. I do so with deep gratitude and much satisfaction ; and I am sure that when I use those words I am expressing your sentiments. And I am expressing your sentiments too, when I say I trust this picture will become an heirloom ; for if there be a succession of life in this country, I trust there will also be a succession of the Bible Society. Well, now, I have very few words to add. This picture sets before us a great truth, which must never be lost sight of, and that is, that the Bible is the book to which we must all go. It was the Bible which produced in Luther's mind the first impression of Truth, and which first revealed to him the light in which he afterwards basked. And here I am reminded of a remark made the other day by a man who will, I believe, prove, in a great measure the Luther of his own country—I mean the converted Brahmin, Narayan Sheshadri. He stated, in speaking of his own religious history, that the first thing which led him to the Truth was, not controversial preaching or controversial tracts, nor anything else of that kind, but the reading of the Bible—that it was from the Bible that he derived the first light that entered his mind. I am not going to undervalue preaching or other subordinate means of promoting God's glory ; but I do say that, whatever difficulties may arise in our country, even if there should be a suspension of what are called the means of grace, there is this truth which should be ever before us—that the Bible will do its own work, and that the Word of God will never return unto Him void.