

fund proposed will be the common property of all. On the other, each congregation will be interested in the maintenance of the fund, because each will receive therefrom a tangible benefit. This was the weak point in the Lay Association. It appealed too directly to the spirit of a philanthropy which experience proves is always of slow growth among a people. (2) The invidiousness resulting from the existing distinction between supplemented and unsupplemented ministers will be removed. (3). If the fund be efficiently upheld, the fact will rest on that feeling of certainty to the minds of ministers, destitute of which their permanent continuance among us cannot be expected. (4). By the systematic culture of liberality among the people, to which the establishment of this scheme ought to contribute, it is hoped that the resources at the command of its managers will, annually, more and more outstrip the demands upon them, so that, at no distant date, we shall be prepared to enter upon the work of extension in earnest. (5). As the management will be mainly in the hands of a Board of Laymen, we may look for a wider and more appreciative interest in the welfare and working of the Church generally, diffused among our people. They will sympathise more cordially with the difficulties experienced by ministers, and aid more efficiently in their removal.

There is much more to be said ere this or any scheme can be successfully launched and navigated. Especially it is necessary to obviate objection and remove misapprehension. With these, and particularly with what will, no doubt, be regarded by many as the cardinal objection, that the whole scheme is borrowed—borrowed, too, from such a source,—we propose to deal in another article. D.

The British and Foreign Bible Society.

The sixty-eighth Annual Report, which has now been before the public since May of the present year, claims attention from all lovers of the truth. Its title proclaims that the Society, whose operations it chronicles, has al-

ready run a goodly race of seventy years, and served three generations. The total expenditure, since its commencement, has amounted to more than seven millions sterling. It has printed and circulated more than sixty-five millions of complete copies of the sacred scriptures; in addition to innumerable portions. Through its agency the word of God is now circulated in two hundred languages of the globe, whereby a vast multitude are enabled to read and proclaim, in their own tongues, the wonderful works of the God of redemption. Its receipts for the past year are above two hundred and twenty-four thousand pounds, or over a million and a quarter of dollars. Such is a meagre abstract of its work. A careful perusal of this Report would demand a month of all such as have a regular calling to absorb all but the fragments of their time. Even the Report—a volume of more than five hundred pages—is a still more inadequate sketch of a greater volume of individual history, presenting many lights and many shadows—sorrow and gladness—danger and deliverance—oppression and patience—provocation and meekness—unbelief and faith—despair and hope. This wide and influential Society, by its agents, its colporteurs and its Bibles, illuminates the path which has led thousands to glory and to God.

As the heavens, "the work of his fingers, and the firmament his handiwork," the clouds, "his chariot," and the light "his garment," reveal the Creator—as certain events in history discover the foot-prints of God—as certain enterprises present to the apprehensive spirit the stamp of divine approbation; so, the hand of the Almighty and glorious Lord appears here with peculiar distinctness. Not that we call this history *miraculous*, as this word is commonly used among divines. But miracles of the Bible teach a dull and grovelling race to see a God and learn His interest and interference in the world and all human things. He made a part of His glory to pass before men, that the most blind by nature, and the most blinded by idolatry, might cry out, in fear and wonder, "This is the finger of God." Miracles teach us that the ordinary course of nature—the seasons' difference, and the wonders that