

THE  
NINETEENTH REPORT  
OF THE  
VAN DIEMEN'S LAND  
AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY,

1839.

HOBART TOWN:  
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1839.

## REPORT.

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It is with feelings of lively gratitude to God, who has permitted them to labour in his service, and for the advancement of his glory, that your Committee would lay before you on this occasion an account of their proceedings during the past year.

From that Sacred Volume which it is their object to circulate in this the land of their adoption, and which they are anxious should be possessed by every human being, they learn that the glad tidings of salvation therein announced shall be made known to all people, and that the period must arrive, however distant it may now appear, when the knowledge of the glory of God shall prevail in all nations. They are also informed that this very desirable era shall be brought about through human instrumentality; and that it is the imperative duty and unspeakable happiness of all who believe the Scriptures to be the Word of God, to lend their aid in carrying forward His work; and in their respective spheres, and according to the ability which God has given them, to make their fellow-creatures acquainted with the contents of the Holy Book, which are able to make wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.



But before the Divine promises will be accomplished, and evangelical truth shall extend its influence over the whole earth, many difficulties will present themselves. Yet they are not insuperable; for if during the past thirty-four years of the British and Foreign Bible Society's existence, it has aided directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, in the translation of the Scriptures into one hundred and thirty-six languages or dialects, of which one hundred and five are translations never before printed, may we not expect, now that our knowledge of different nations is enlarged, and our facilities for intercourse with them much greater than what they have been in former years, that a more rapid progress will be made in disseminating a knowledge of the Gospel among mankind, and that ere long all nations, kindreds, and tribes, shall have the means of reading in their own native language the wonders of redeeming love.

That you may know the part taken by your Committee and their valuable coadjutors in promoting this noble cause, they will now call your attention to the Third Annual Report of the Ladies' Branch Association.

"The Committee of the 'Hobart Town Ladies' Branch Bible Association,' in glancing at their proceedings during the past year, cannot but regret the superficial manner in which the work of the Society has been performed by their Association. The want of collectors—the life of every Bible Association—

is keenly felt; in consequence of which the town has been but very partially canvassed.

"Since April, 1838, fifty-eight Bibles and eight Testaments have been distributed, (seven of the former and one of the latter are on loan.) The receipts are—for Bibles and Testaments sold, £11 16s. 10d.; in free contributions, £53 18s. 11d., making a total of £65 15s. 9d.

"The Committee are sensible of the great importance of the work in which they are engaged, and are determined not to relax their efforts, but with renewed vigour to continue their exertions, in humble dependence upon the blessing of the Almighty.

"They would again invite—yea, entreat the Ladies of Hobart Town and its vicinity to unite with them in spreading the Scriptures of Truth throughout the land, being assured that they are 'profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,' and 'are able to make wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.'

JANE M. WATERHOUSE, } Secretaries."  
ELEANOR ORTON,

Your Committee wish they had it in their power to report fully on the labours of various gentlemen appointed to promote the interests of the Society in the interior districts of the Colony, but from some of these gentlemen neither reports nor funds have yet been received. It is nevertheless gratifying to your



Committee to state, that in various districts the attachment felt towards the Society remains unabated. In a letter received during the present month from Dr. Story, of Great Swan Port, the writer remarks, "I herewith transmit the result of my endeavours to obtain subscriptions in behalf of the Van Diemen's Land Auxiliary Bible Society, and have great pleasure in reporting the interest expressed by the inhabitants of this district towards that Society. The sum subscribed, (£4 14s. 4d.,) although small, is more than that obtained last year, and I am in hopes of being able to obtain a still further sum next year; but I require more time than has been given me this year, as the district is a very extended one."

A part of the district of Glenarchy has been canvassed by Messrs. Brownell and Geiss. The amount collected is £9 19s. 8d., with the promise of some additional subscriptions. In a note addressed to the Secretary, they remark,—we have great pleasure in stating that every house we visited was in possession of the Scriptures.

From the Association at New Norfolk, the sum of £13 14s. 0d. has been received; remitted by the Rev. W. Garrard.

There have been received during the past year from the British and Foreign Bible Society, a liberal supply of Bibles and Testaments, in addition to fifty Bibles and two hundred Testaments voted by the Parent Institution for the Penal Settlement on Tas-

if we anticipate the future, a much wider field than has yet been entered is opening up before the friends of the Bible, and loud and constant cries are heard from various quarters, "Come over and help us; and (in the concluding language of the Report of the Parent Institution,) "all things around us and beyond us in the moral and spiritual state of mankind seem to bid us advance; the call to go forward is too loud to be misunderstood, too piercing and solemn to be resisted. Necessity is laid upon us; we dare not go back; we must not even halt. Let us place before ourselves the wide and still enlarging field of our labours; let us conceive of the benefits, temporal and everlasting, which may be looked for should a merciful God still continue to smile on our work; let us think of our responsibilities, and then of our prospects and our hopes: and by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and 'by our gathering together unto him,' let us be warned never to rest, till having planted our foot on every shore, and given the Bible in every tongue, we can point to the open Volume, and exclaim:—O earth! earth! earth! hear the Word of the Lord."