

interesting reference in one of the letters of Charles Lamb. But the happiness of his wedded life was of short duration; for, in a few short months, his beautiful wife, having caught cold at a funeral, which was followed by fever, was suddenly taken from him, as well as an infant to which she expected to give birth. With the breaking-up of his happy home, his grief was for a time overwhelming, and never in after life did he even allude to this sore bereavement. After the death of his father, in 1807, his mother and sisters settled in England, near the metropolis, and Charles Dudley took up his abode with them. That his severe domestic trial was made a blessing to him spiritually, there is every reason to believe, and that after the sowing in tears came the reaping in joy, as he was led to a saving knowledge of Him who is the Resurrection and the Life. His gifted mother's love and sympathy did much for him in his day of trial, and now he began to take an interest in the work of God, and especially in that of the Bible Society. In 1815, he became a member of the parent committee, and in 1817, his name appears among the Honorary Life Governors, having "rendered essential services to the society."

The extent of his labors during the seven years of his unofficial connection with the Society will be apparent when it is stated, as recorded in the annual report for 1818, that in one year he travelled more than 4,500 miles, attended 107 committees, and 128 general meetings, 59 of which were for the formation of new auxiliaries and branches. His retirement, however, from these engrossing and fruitful labors was happily of short duration. The committee became increasingly impressed with the importance of fostering and extending the auxiliary system, of maintaining the loyal adhesion of the branches to the parent stem, while leaving them at liberty to direct and control their own local operations. In seeking for some one to undertake this work, the Committee at once turned to their former colleague, who, in 1819, felt at liberty to respond to their invitation that he should become one of the officers of the Society and take charge of its Home Organization. With this appointment begins one of the most important parts of Mr. Dudley's life.

The Committee in 1819 appointed Mr. Dudley to superintend the Society's Auxiliaries in the provinces. He was admirably qualified for this special work as his previous voluntary and unpaid service, as well as the whole record of his subsequent labors, abundantly testify. His remarkable genius for organization, and the method and system laid down for the efficient working of the various affiliated societies, may be seen in the goodly 8vo volume which he published in 1821, entitled, *An Analysis of the System of the Bible Society, including a Sketch of the Origin and Results of Auxiliary and Branch Societies and Bible Associa-*