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by the enemy, but the unanimous testimony of the colporteurs was that such destruction of God's Word happened especially after wholesale gratuitous distribution injudiciously made by people, acting no doubt with the best intentions, but at the same time in the most complete ignorance of the character and of the prejudices of the Italians. Even books that have been paid for, may, no doubt, fall into the hands of the priests and be destroyed; but a good number also, especially of the larger and costlier volumes, remain in many a house,—dumb, and yet effective witnesses of the Gospel of Christ. The seed thus cast in so many places will surely give some day a glorious harvest.

RUSSIA.

The Russian Empire is still in its youth: no one can easily forecast the strength and influence of its maturity. But if there is any single fact to which the reports of Dr. Nicholson and of Mr. Morrison bear uniform testimony, it is to the goodwill of the Russian authorities to the Agents of the Bible Society, and the readiness of the people to welcome the colporteurs when they appear. Of every seven copies of the Scriptures circulated by the Society last year, one passed into the hands of a subject of the Russian Empire. The circulation in the northern and the southern Agencies amounted to 530,000, and the numbers are steadily increasing year by year. A place of authority and influence much greater than even now it possesses may yet be held by the Russian race. The reports of the Bible Society—and none perhaps more than the last—give good reason to indulge the hope that the influence will be exerted by a Bible-loving and a devout people.

These wider conclusions are illustrated by many pleasant incidents. The story of Mary Jones has been often told, and it will always have a significance of its own; but it may be paralleled, in the devotion it shows, by not a few from the journals of the Russian colporteurs. Dr. Nicolson mentions the case of a youth who set his heart on a rouble Testament but without any means of paying the price. He disappeared, and in a few days the colporteur met him again—the rouble in his hand and a deep light in his eyes. 'How did you get it?' he was asked. His reply was given with characteristic simplicity: he had walked twenty-seven miles to an employer of labour, engaged himself for a rouble's worth of work, and walked twenty-seven miles back again. Yet the incident, among many similar, hardly engages the attention. In another instance given by Dr. Nicolson—it is a very rare one—the purchaser objected to the book as being provided by an English Society. The answer of the colporteur—himself a Russian—was conclusive and emphatic: 'Every Russian knows how much we owe to the English Society.'

'The Bible Society through its Agents in Russia has always carefully inculcated on its employés, and especially on those of them who go among the people, that whatever their own religious