

and missionaries at various centres. The preparatory work of the past is beginning to show itself in the frequent appearance of persons who take the part of your colporteurs in defending the teachings of the Bible, and the correctness of the text in your editions. But infidelity and violent opposition are also met with.

"Space will not permit a detailed reference to the numerous and diversified countries included in this Agency. In Palestine 11,000 single Gospels in various languages were granted by your committee for a distribution to the pilgrims at Jerusalem, intended to have been carried out under the direction of the late Bishop Barclay. Port Said is now occupied by a resident colporteur of your Society, who has laboured with much diligence and success, especially amongst the immense population which passes through the place on shipboard. In three months he sold over 600 copies. In Greece a young man bought a Bible, saying to the colporteur, 'Sir, I am very poor, and this money I give you I have borrowed. To repay it I shall have to take something from my daily food, but I do it cheerfully that I may study the Word of God.'

PERSIA.

"Few countries outside Palestine possess a deeper interest for the student of Scripture than Persia, from its intimate connection with the history of the Jews, and the many references to it in the Old Testament. Christianity early made progress in Persia, but it was extinguished by terrible persecutions, and it was not till the present century that the distinguished missionary, the Rev. Henry Martyn, provided the Persians with the New Testament in their own tongue. For want, however, of a living agent in the country itself the diffusion of the Scriptures in Persia has till lately been very small.

"Two important steps have been taken in the past year, which will, it is hoped, greatly increase the acceptability of the Persian version of the New Testament, and extend its circulation. Martyn's translation has been thoroughly revised by the Rev. R. Bruce, your Society's Agent for Persia, with the scholarly aid of Professor E. H. Palmer, of Cambridge. And the Church Missionary Society have undertaken to send a Missionary to Baghdad, part of whose time is to be devoted to Bible work at the expense of your Society. The two colporteurs of Baghdad have sold some hundreds of copies during the year, and the dépôt has done good service. There are also dépôts at Ispahan, Burujird, and Kermanshah.

"Geographically Baghdad belongs to Turkey in Asia, but religiously it is most closely connected with Persia. For Kebela is to the Shia Muslims of Persia what Mecca is to the Sunni Muslims of Turkey. There took place the martyrdom of Husain, grandson of Mohammed, and every Shika is expected to visit it, dead or alive. Mr. Bruce passed a night at a caravanserai along with 400 corpses *en route* for Baghdad, and about 4,000 a year are sent there from Russia and Persia for interment in the sacred spot. Most Persians visit it more than once in their lifetime, and thus the Scriptures may get carried back from Baghdad into all parts of Persia itself.

INDIA.

This country has such paramount claims upon Englishmen and English women, that your Committee are anxious to do more than has yet been possible in the effective diffusion of the Scriptures among its 250,000,000 of people. All the Auxiliaries are assisted by grants in Scriptures, in printing paper, and in money towards the cost of translations, and revisions, of printing, colportage, and general expenses. They also raise and expend money