

PALESTINE, SYRIA AND EGYPT

The number of copies sold annually in these interesting countries is still small; but there had been a slightly increased circulation in the last two, and in the first it had been about the same as in the previous year.

ABYSSINIA.

By the completion of the New Testament in Ethiopic and Amharic, the Abyssinian people are now in possession of the whole Bible corrected by the Hebrew and the Greek texts. Dr. Krapf, in expressing his joy at this, says: "May the Lord grant us our ardent wish, that the printed copies may be speedily disseminated, and become instrumental in producing in the people's heart a saving knowledge of the only Mediator and Saviour Jesus Christ."

The Swedish brethren have stood firm at their post of Massowa. One of them writes: "I wish I could tell you how very thankful we are to the Society that makes us able to do anything for the poor people here;" and he renders an account of 883 copies issued from the depôt during the past year.

EAST AFRICA.

Your Committee have followed with keen interest the heroic attempts made by the principal Missionary Societies to obtain a footing in Central Africa. Grants have been made by your Committee of Swahili and Arabic Scriptures to the Societies engaged in this enterprise. The former language has been ascertained to be intelligible at the northern end of the Victoria Nyanza, and may prove of extensive use in the whole Lake region, pending at least the preparation of special versions, which must be a matter of time.

WEST AFRICA.

The Baptist Mission on the Congo is a bold endeavour to open a way for the Gospel into the heart of Africa from the West Coast. Your Committee have made a grant of Arabic Scriptures, which the exploring party found to be widely understood.

INDIA.

The recent famine is being employed by God as an instrument for inclining thousands to Christianity. Rich and poor alike were speaking in grateful terms of the noble efforts made by the British people to relieve them, and—what is of higher moment—of the greater willingness of many to read the Bible and listen to the truths it teaches.

The Calcutta Auxiliary had employed 36 colporteurs, and circulated 38,208 copies; the Madras Auxiliary had 41 colporteurs who had sold 45,784 copies, and its total issues had been 77,683. The Allahabad, Lahore, Bangalore and Bombay Auxiliaries were also doing good work, and the last named had despatched a colporteur, with Scriptures in eight languages, for the soldiers going to the Afghan War.

CHINA.

The Province of Shantung, in the north-east of China, is just now the scene of a remarkable awakening. The missionaries who for four or five years have been exposed to the "frosts of scorn and hatred," find themselves suddenly set down in the "warm sunshine of respect, appreciation and love." What is the cause of this change? The answer of those who have witnessed it is, without hesitation—The famine and the impression made by the relief

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