

hold of a people's mind, it is not easy to secure their attention to subjects of heavenly import, even though you tell them of a kingdom that cannot be moved, and of a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is the Lord.— And when, in addition to such a serious hindrance to the prosecution of your Society's work, other difficulties supervened, through the stagnation of commerce and the prevalence of cholera, there might indeed have been cause for regret, but none for astonishment, if a considerable diminution had taken place in the issues of the past year.

Such, however, has not been the case. The language of the last Report was that of warm congratulation, inasmuch as it announced a larger circulation than had hitherto been effected in any one year. That circulation has not only been maintained during a season of much trial, but has been considerably increased. The issues from your various Depôts, as reported by your Agent, Mr. Bruce, have amounted to 48,987 volumes, of which 6,371 have been entire Bibles, 14,436 New Testaments, and 28,180 Portions. The value of Colportage is sufficiently established by the fact, that whilst 10,698 of these volumes have been sold to other Societies, and 483 have been distributed by gift to the schools, &c., the Colporteurs whom you employ have sold 37,906. It is true that of this number the proportions of the single Gospels is very large, but this is rather to be expected in a country where the Bible has so long been an unknown book to the majority of the people. Caution would necessarily accompany any desire to become acquainted with it, and in spending their money for that which they scarcely yet realized as bread, they would consider it a less risk to incur the smaller outlay. But who can doubt, that with many of them at least, the taste of this heavenly food will induce a desire for more, and that the good news which the Gospel unfolds will encourage them to dig deeper into the rich mine of revealed truth.

The number of Colporteurs employed has been thirty-four, a staff not more than sufficient for the cultivation of this important field, though your Committee find it impossible to maintain it at its present complement, having due regard to the pressing claims of other countries. The readiness with which these men adapt themselves to the varying circumstances which call for prompt action within the range of their labour may be gathered from the fact, that two of them were closely watching the issue of the recent conflict, ready in case they saw the flag of liberty waving over the seven-hilled city, to plant by its side the banner of God's Truth, and invite attention to Him by whom kings reign and princes decree justice. The classes in Italy among whom the Scriptures chiefly circulate are the small shop-keepers, and those who subsist by daily labour. A ready access is also found for the Word of God among the soldiers, but so many rumours have been rife of plots to seduce them from their allegiance, that the precautionary measures needful to guard against such an emergency have led to the exclusion of your Colporteur from the camp. In recording the labours of the past year, Mr. Bruce refers seriatim to the different centres of organization occupied by him, and it will be interesting to pass the work connected with these under brief review.

#### TURKEY.

Your Agent, Dr. Thomson, who has been watching every opportunity of use-