

brigands that colportage can only be prosecuted in them at the risk of life and property. In other parts the people are steeped in poverty, and are subjected to so many petty exactions that they cannot afford to purchase anything larger than a Portion. It is therefore a cheering fact that the circulation by your Society's own direct agency within the Turkish Empire has increased by 21,300 copies in the year, besides an increase in the number supplied by it to the American Bible Society. The amount received for books sold by your colporteurs and dépôts was £1,368, which is £280 more than in 1880.

The colporteurs employed during the whole or a part of the year were, in Constantinople, 9; in Bulgaria, 3; in Macedonia, 1; in Albania, 1; in Bithynia, 2; in Ionia and the Islands of the Archipelago, 5; in Cyprus, 1; in Crete, 1; in Greece, 5; in Syria and Palestine, 1; in Egypt, 4; total 33 men. Sales are also effected through dépôts, booksellers, correspondents, 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 teaching 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 among 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 I shall have to take something from my daily food, but I do it cheerfully that I may study the Word of God.'

Through the courtesy of the Palestine Exploration Fund arrangements have been made which will bring the maps inserted in your Society's Bibles abreast of the latest discoveries in Palestine and the East.

India.—This country has such paramount claims upon Englishmen and Englishwomen, 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. Their efforts are, however, necessarily restricted by the small proportion of persons who can read, and who care to possess the Christian Book. They are dependent on missionaries and scholars for the translations required in a land where more than a hundred languages and dialects are spoken. And they cannot work without Christian agents available as channels of distribution in each part of the country.

The care of your Bible work in India is at present divided between six Auxiliaries—those of Calcutta, North India, the Punjab, Bombay, Bangalore, and Madras. Ceylon has Auxiliaries of its own. All of these 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 in the country themselves. Your Committee have again urged the

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