

encouraging; the people are resolved, whatever may hinder, to read the Word of God." This dawn of the higher intelligence is perhaps most evident in Greece itself and in Albania, but it is not confined to them, and with strangely impressive recurrence to the early days of Christianity in these very regions, Dr. Thomson reports that "the Gospel is again asserting its power over the hearts of men in the regions of Galatia, Lystra, Iconium, Pisidia, and Pamphylia, where Paul and Barnabas once toiled and suffered for the truth they proclaimed." In the island of Samos a testimony was borne which one would gladly apply to wider regions. "It is well-known," said one of the colporteur's outspoken friends to a fault-finder, "that there was no spiritual life among the people until the Bible Society came."

There are yet left, within Europe, the western territories of the RUSSIAN EMPIRE and Agency, but to follow its eastward extension and touch its limits leads us deep into Central Asia, and as far as the Yellow Sea. There are perhaps no more important sections in a Bible Survey than this group of countries—interesting as including many of the old homes of civilization, and still more interesting as holding the promise of a future which however indefinite and even uncertain can hardly but be great. It is welcome intelligence that, in spite of the shadow which from famine and pestilence clouded every record of 1891, the circulation, which the previous year was under half a million, has now risen above that large number and exceeds 523,000. This includes both sections of the Agency. Of this total over 55,000 copies have been issued from the SIBERIAN Depot; 11,000 have through Dr. Baedeker's friendly hands reached the inmates of various State Prisons, and Mr. Wilkinson has spread above 20,000 copies among the Jews.* In Russia one of the pleasantest aspects of the Society's work is the goodwill and the assistance of many of the Government officials—a goodwill of which the sub-agent for Siberia had a highly-valued proof in the courtesy shown him by the State Inspector of Prisons, and in the thanks which he repeatedly and cordially expressed to the Society. In the journals of the year there are many illustrations of the "quiet success" which everywhere, and especially among the Russian people, follows the colporteurs' work. And if we turn to the south, and to Central Asia, to Odessa, to Kiev, to Tashkent, to Merv, similar accounts meet us.† There has indeed been terrible suffering, it has been a "Black Year" long to be remembered, but the colporteur has not been the less welcome because the people were involved in misfortune. On one page of Mr. Morrison's singularly vivid account, we see one of the men wading knee-deep the day long in mud, but effecting good sales nevertheless; another seated with a group of wild Turkomans discussing the claims of the Scriptures; a third pursuing his word in one of the compartments of a railway train as, full of returning pilgrims, it speeds northwards from Kiev—the Sacred City—and delighted, when to the stock of relics which they are taking home, he can add a copy of the New Testament. "Wonderful people," says Mr. Morrison, "these pilgrims are, leaving their far off homes, and impelled by a strange impulse coming up to their 'Jerusalem.' They wander in and out of the solemn Byzantine interior of the Kiev Cathedral, listen to the dirge-like music of the choir, duly inspect the sacred pictures, wander with guttering candles through the draughty catacombs, touch with their lips the relics of saints, and when all is finished turn back to their squalid homes." All this the colporteur sees, but he desires to give them something better than anything they can find in their sad strange pilgrimage, and he knows that if he can but send a Bible home with them it will be

* Total circulation for the year in the North Russia Agency, which includes Northern European Russia, Siberia, and part of Central Asia, 360,063 (previous year, 327,942); of this by colportage, 111,470 (previous year, 105,920).

† Total circulation for the year in the South Russia Agency, including Southern European Russia, Cis- and Transcaucasia, Transcaspia and Southern Turkestan, 163,829, (previous year, 166,492); by colportage, 84,320 (previous year, 64,633).