

RUSSIA.

"In Northern Russia the Rev. W. Nicholson reports that he has reason to thank God for much blessing during the year.

"With all the evil elements that are at work in the Russian Empire, culminating in the Nihilistic conspiracies and the anti-Jewish riots, there are other and blessed agencies at work. 'There is every reason to believe that there is a quiet growth and deepening of spiritual life amongst the common people, combined with increased attention to the Scriptures.' Since the year closed, permission has been granted to your Society to circulate the whole Bible in Russ with the Apocrypha.

"The circulation in North Russia was 225,300 copies, which shows an increase of 6,000 on the previous year.

"Something is being done for Siberia by your Society, as well as by some others. But it is altogether inadequate to the size and population of that vast region, and your Committee pray that a suitable Agent may soon be given them to enter the field with zeal, and self-denial, and faith.

"In Southern Russia there had been an increase of 5670 copies in the circulation, notwithstanding the bad harvest; and the regulations respecting the permits for colportage had been altered in such a way as to increase the liberty with which the colporteurs can move about in the whole empire."

THE CAUCASUS.

"Brave efforts have been made by Mr. Morrison himself and through his colporteurs to carry the Scriptures into hitherto unreached places, and 13,000 copies have been sold.

"In May, Colporteur Mussail crossed the Caspian from Baku to Krasnovodsk, the place whence the Skobelev expedition set out, and he sold 200 books in a fortnight on the fringe of Turkestan. The steamboat and railway officials conveyed him free, and when he travelled by goods train they made him comfortable in a horsebox.

"After returning to Baku he boldly started for Daghetan, which in the minds of the people is still only the home of savage tribes delighting in violence and murder. Gradually Mussail penetrated inland, selling books, till he reached the great rock-fortress Gunib, just twenty-two years after the heroic defence which gave it world-wide fame.

TURKEY, GREECE, EGYPT, AND PALESTINE.

"Your Turkish Agency comprises several countries in which it is especially difficult to find men with the qualifications and character so essential to a Christian colporteur. Moreover, whole districts are so overrun with 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 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 Iona 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 depôts, booksellers, correspondents,