

he has officially sanctioned the issue of every book the colporteur is selling. The busy activities of mission presses, and the literary renaissance of the present generation, make him impatient, and his censorship of the press is both tormenting and amusing in its furious stringency. A solemn order was recently promulgated that henceforth no mission press should have more than one entrance and that by the front door in full view of the police. Back doors to presses are too suspicious to be allowed. Orders have been given that every book henceforth to be printed must be sent in manuscript entire to the authorities for approval. All existing publications must at once be submitted. Strange to say, however, the official indorsement of the Imperial Ministry of Public Instruction has been obtained upon the Bible in every language of the empire.

Just at present the government has a severe spasm of restrictive oversight of all foreign books and periodicals. Everything bearing upon missions, Islam, Turkey, Oriental travel, Eastern history and the religious and political condition of the East, is at once confiscated. Encyclopædias are in special disfavor; they know too much and say too much on a great variety of subjects. The letter *m* is an exceptionally dangerous one, and if the book is not finally retained, it is returned with a portion or all of the letter *m* cut out. What propriety in having Mohammed talked about in the same breath with Mephistopheles and monk and mule, or Mohammedanism with mythology and missions and malaria, or Moslem with Mormon and mummy and missionary. Among the books recently confiscated at the custom houses are Robinson's "Researches," Thompson's "Land and the Book," Murray's "Handbook of Palestine," a copy of the "Schaff-Herzog Encyclopædia" and of the "Encyclopædia Britannica," Pierson's "Crisis of Missions," Clark's "Ten Great Religions," English or French translations of the Koran, histories of Russia, and all reports and periodicals referring to missions. At a recent holocaust at a prominent sea-port of the empire 600 foreign books under condemnation were burned by the authorities. It is said that an old Moslem law was promulgated with reference to the famous "Apology of Al-Kindy" that any house in which it was found should be destroyed and forty houses around it. Who knows but we shall yet hear that it is the will of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan that the mission presses shall be destroyed and every house around them within a radius of half a mile!

Educational work is also a serious grievance to the Turk. He has closed many of the schools—at one time over thirty were closed in Syria and Palestine, and policemen forcibly removed all Moslem children, and stringent prohibitory orders were issued forbidding Moslems to send their children. A law was recently framed forbidding all religious instruction in schools, but was never promulgated. By the