

is one in which an inhabitant of a benighted town in Apulia was converted at Naples, and sent home to a friend a Bible with these words : "This book has benefited my soul ; read it, and it will bring a blessing to yours." Not only was the advice taken, but neighbours were gathered to join in the reading, and the result had been the formation of a Protestant Church with twenty-two members.

## SPAIN.

The law here still forbids public manifestations, and leaves it to every local magistrate to give his own definition, so that in many parts great restrictions are imposed on the colporteurs, some twenty in number. They had, however, quietly pursued their way, and sold about as many books as in the previous year, the entire circulation being 30,147 copies.

## RUSSIA.

The operations of the *North Russian Agency* still showed signs of development, aided by the blessing of God and the favour of the authorities, who recognise the benevolent aim of the Society and its complete independence of politics. While the circulation had risen to 253,000, and much had been done for Turkish prisoners, it was in *Southern Russia* that the greater activity had been exhibited. The progress here was unprecedented. For the decade ending 1868 the annual circulation was 5,000 ; for the last ten years it has been 57,000 ; and now, apart from war issues, the ordinary demand has increased to 70,000. This, in a year when colporteurs were drawn off to special work, and the resources of the country were severely taxed, is good proof of the strong desire of the masses to possess the Word of God. Mr. James Watt, had spent a part of the year in making a journey through Persia, with a view to learn how the Society might best discharge its responsibility to that vast but thinly populated and neglected land.

## TURKEY.

The year, as might be anticipated, had been one of restricted opportunity; the colporteurs had been confronted by a state of suffering and anarchy that had well nigh paralysed their efforts, so that the circulation had declined from 21,000 to 17,000. There seemed, however, to be a quieter state of feeling and a general expectation of some renovation of the country. The revisers of the Turkish Bible had completed their great work, and it had been published jointly by our Parent Society and the American Bible Society, the two Societies working here, as it is their desire ever and everywhere to do, in sisterly harmony.

A worthy man had been sent out to *Cyprus*, where he had opened a dépôt and received much encouragement. Special permission had been given to import the Society's Scriptures free of duty, and the Archbishop of the island had issued a commendatory letter, in which he bade the people remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said : "Search the Scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life."

## GREECE.

Greece is at present the only country in Europe, with the exception of Austria, in which the authorities throw deliberate obstacles in the way of the free circulation of the Word of God in the vernacular tongue. The Government and the Holy Synod continue to oppose the spread of the Scriptures in Modern Greek. It is cheering, therefore, to find a growing demand for the Divine Word, the sale of which, during the past year, has been 2,242 copies, as against 2,021 in 1877.