

party. The police were notified, and one of their number visited the new Bible House to make inquiries and if possible find out who was the instigator of the movement. He was politely received and shown around the building. He was amazed at the stock of Bibles, books and tracts in various languages in the different store-rooms. He evidently had not dreamed that the world contained so many books. He remarked to the person in attendance: "You may think that there are 20,000 books in the building, but I say there are more than 100,000. The building is full to the very top." He inquired for the Director, and was told that he was absent in Egypt. He asked where the man was who printed the Turkish Testament, and received the answer that he was dead. He then said: "Where is the head of the printing establishment in this building?" and the reply was made that he too was away for the day. The Turk was greatly mystified, and could not comprehend why responsibility happened to be so intangible just at that time. He was accordingly informed that if he would call again in a few days he would be able to see both the director and the present printer.

Doubtless the report of this gentleman to his superior deeply impressed them with the idea that such a number of Bibles and Testaments and religious books and tracts implied the purpose of proselyting that could not be tolerated. Accordingly the Minister of Instruction, a bigoted Moslem, was appealed to, and backed by the Sheikul Islam, decided that the sale of Turkish Gospels must be stopped. So without notice that the Government could not allow the sale of such books, one of the colporteurs was arrested, his books taken from him, and the sale of Turkish sacred Scriptures prohibited.

The British and United States Ambassadors promptly interfered. The Turkish Government was in a difficult position:

"Rashid Pasha admitted our right to print the sacred Scriptures and sell them in book-shops, but said colportage could not be allowed on the ground, that it would lead to disturbance of the peace. To this it was replied that in sixteen years 505,387

Bibles, Testaments, and portions in various languages had been sold in the empire for \$130,905.35. Of these 26,282 were Turkish sacred Scriptures, and no disorder or disturbance of the peace resulted from the sale, and that Turks generally revered the book and were glad to purchase it. It was further stated that full three-fourths of these books had been sold by means of colporteurs and that this method of sale could not be given up, on account of the damage which would result to our and also because it was the method in which all articles of commerce to a great were disposed of."

SILENT MESSENGERS.

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