

only twenty years ago, this mountain chief set Russia at defiance, and actually received back his eldest son and a ransom of Rbl. 40,000 for two Georgian princes whom he had captured in a raid on Georgia. Streike's sales in this Tartar place, chiefly, however, to the Russian soldiery, were 63 copies. He writes : ' In Vedenno I have only sold for Rbl. 25 (over £3). I have done my best ; there is not a house in which I did not offer the Scriptures. My sales are not large, and owing to the badness of the roads travelling is very difficult. I cannot ride with my boxes ; I must always go on foot, the horses scarcely being able to get through the mud. It is also very dangerous to travel after dark, robberies not being unfrequent. This week a man and his wife were murdered on the road to Grosni, and only last night a man was plundered by Tartars of all he had. How necessary it is to bring God's Word among this people ! They also seem very willing to buy, but the dialect of our Tartar Scriptures is not understood. Copies were shown to the Mullah, but even he could not read them.' In Temir-Khan-Shura, the capital of Daghestan, Streike met with encouraging success, a hearty welcome and friendly co-operation from the Russian priest, but, on the other hand, threats and denunciations were the reception accorded him by the spiritual leader of the Armenians, he even forcibly retaining several copies of Armenian Scriptures to send to his superiors, along with a complaint against our work. \* \* \*

"The sub-depot at Stavropol, also arranged for on this journey, effected a sale of over 500 copies in six weeks, when fresh supplies had to be written for. A Russian philanthropic institution in this town labours to promote religious and useful knowledge in the province, and would gladly do something for the Calmucs if we could provide Scriptures in their dialect, which, unfortunately, is not at present in our power. From the library of this institution your agent received what appears to be the four Gospels in the Calmuc dialect, which bears close affinity to the Mongolian. Proceeding farther on the journey, an order for 800 copies for ready money was arranged for at Rostoff, and executed from the Charkoff depot ; sub-depots were established at the towns of Kursk, Orel, and Voronej, and steps taken to have the Volga from Kamyschin to Astrachan colported by an able and conscientious man, who has for many years been one of our best helpers in Bible work in these parts. Astrachan will be visited by him, and provided with Scriptures in the languages required there. He will not be in the direct service of the Society, but receive a commission on the proceeds of his sales. From Astrachan your agent proceeded by way of the Caspian to Temir-Khan-Shura, thence through Daghestan to Tiflis, want of time obliging him to renounce his intention of visiting Baku and Schemacha on the return journey."

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### RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES IN THE U. S.—BIBLE SOCIETY.

The United States is very much given to Societies of every name and organization. I saw some ten thousand of the Knights Templars with flags and music marching through the streets of Philadelphia. But there are two Societies that are above all their Societies—the Tract Society and the Bible Society. I called twice at the rooms of the Tract Society in New York, and was surprised to find the building and the business so quiet in such a busy centre of trade. To judge, however, rightly as to the work of this important Society, one must visit their printing establishment, and follow the mails and the colporteurs as they scatter their periodicals and their books broadcast over the land.

It was my privilege to be present in the Academy of Music in Philadelphia, on the evening on which was held the sixtieth annual meeting of the American Bible Society. Admission was by ticket ; and several hours before the time of meeting, upwards of 4,000 were given away. I went early, getting a good seat in this magnificent hall, but many had to stand all the evening.