

these devoted men seems well as its compass, and it is of the growth of a new every land, but especially a limitless interest and there have been ceaselessly all the provinces—empires in most of the more important land. One meets villages, in the unlighted, How patiently enduring out, we must read the of the West seems too or American brother, reveal the same human ys his needs, may well at home. 'Why is this y now?' said a fellow- ever been known before?' naries who superintend now receptive many of s Mr. Joseland, whose read from and explain make a longer stay and they leave they are as often as they can.' their work to that of t; they are clearing ening up roads along bridging the rivers acquainted with China stead of forecasting e the pages of the the leaf in a volume

purchasers has been the Rev. W. Hunter himself, and that a promise to become hing, and above all, the testimony of the

t they are in Man- e for being instru- In some cases, the ng new stations by ad ever been. In g stations; and in ncreased the faith

of isolated Christians far away from spiritual ordinances in the 'communion of the saints.' Many a village has its one or more believers and sincere searchers after Truth, where the Gospel would not have been known but for the itinerating colporteur. By such results, it seems to me, rather than by the sale of many more books, which could not be read, is our Lord served, and the aim of the Bible Society attained.'

Mr. Turley proceeds: 'All the missionaries in Manchuria have, as usual, given us much help, without which our labours would be less effective. In the sad death of Rev. J. A. Wylie the Society has lost a faithful friend and a very earnest worker. He was a hard-working bookseller, and not long before his death had returned from a book-selling tour. With Liu Chi-fah he spent several weeks, two years ago, selling our books all along the route where the war has been raging.'

We praise God that so many books have been distributed in Manchuria, and especially that the Christians have the New Testament. Now that all human help has been taken from them, God will speak to them through His Word.

#### JAPAN.

Population (1890), 40,500,000. Protestant communicants in 1890, 32,380.

No report of the year is more inspired by the story it has to tell than that of Japan. It is flushed with expectation. The influences of the war, the writers believe, are strongly in the direction of the advance of Christianity, and the nearer future seems to them full of the highest promise.

It is perilous to forecast, especially in a history so full of the unexpected as that of Japan has been; but the narrative is assuredly a remarkable one. The circulation of Scriptures has immensely increased, and the friendly interest and respect to Christian faith has been still more notable. There is nothing more significant in its own sphere than the way in which the young, eager nation, searching for the highest form of civilization, seems to find in the doctrine of Christ the secret of all that is best in the western world. More clearly, perhaps, than the west itself, the higher minds of Japan are discerning the explanation of its superiority, and turning inquiringly to the spiritual truth. Nothing could be more courteous than the permission given to the deputies of the Bible Societies to supply the army with Scriptures; and never, perhaps, has there been planned under circumstances more favourable so thorough a distribution in the great cities as that which has recently begun. But a few more such changes, and the mind of this gifted people may show a development as remarkable as anything that has occurred in the world of politics.

In the extracts given proof has been afforded of the great and interesting work the Bible Society has performed. Want of space prevents notice of its work in other parts of Europe and Asia, in