

If nothing else had been accomplished in the work of missions, if there were no other monuments than the stereotyped plates of the British and Foreign Bible Society, one might consider the outlay that has been made a valuable and fruitful one for the cause of truth. This is a greater blessing in its scope than the gift of tongues at Pentecost. Those whose utterances at that time were a surprise even to themselves could only speak as individual men, and the languages in which they spoke were perhaps but few compared with this array; and whereas their gifts perished with them, here is a permanent record of the Word of God in all these languages. Here are the media through which to reach generation after generation with the knowledge of salvation. It is difficult, nay, it is impossible, to form an estimate of the significance of the little volume, the "Souvenir of 1888;" but whoever sits down to inspect its beautiful types and strange alphabets, and tries to take in its full meaning, will rise from the perusal with thanksgiving to God for what He hath wrought.—*The Church at Home and Abroad.*

INFLUENCES AT WORK IN TURKEY.

BY REV. EDWIN M. BLISS.

The power of Christian missions over the religious thought and life of those who do not openly declare their adherence to evangelical Christianity is shown in many ways. From the year 1853 to the present time there have been distributed by the American Bible Society not less than 800,000 copies of the Scriptures. Add perhaps 700,000 by the British and Foreign Bible Society, and we have one and a half millions of copies put into the hands of the people. These have been in about the proportion of one Bible, three Testaments, and five Portions, i.e., single Gospels, Psalms, and Proverbs. When it is remembered that the immense majority of these have been sold, and that certainly not more than one-half, if more than one-third, have gone into evangelical families; when it is remembered, too, that book-purchasing is not in the Levant what it is so often in America—that it almost uniformly represents a genuine, earnest interest in the book—some idea may be gained of the unseen influence that is being exerted all over that great country.

A Bible society colporteur, in the inn of a small village on the Black Sea coast, was challenged to argument by a group of young men thoroughly versed in European infidelity. Being an uneducated man, he found it difficult to meet them. To his utter surprise, a Turkish priest sitting by, asking him for a Testament, took up the argument and utterly silenced the young men, who left acknowledging their defeat. To the colporteur, who expressed his thanks for the timely aid, he said: "Go tell the gentlemen at the Bible House not to be discouraged. There are many like myself who read this good book, accept its faith, and are trying to lead the life of Christ. We do not openly confess him, for we feel that the time has not yet come; but it will come, and then you will see the fruit of the seed you are sowing."

Among the most significant facts in the religious life of the old Christian communities of the Levant are the changes that have been brought about in not a few places in the church services. Worship before pictures has been very generally discouraged, and in some cases the pictures have been taken down. It is becoming an increasing ambition on the part of the clergy to be known as good preachers, and many an earnest gospel sermon is given from pulpits where, until recently, nothing was heard but an intoned liturgy in an unknown tongue. Sabbath schools and Bible classes have been established, and at the present time the American Bible Society is printing in Constantinople an edition of the Ancient Armenian Bible, at the combined earnest request of Gregorian and Papal, as well as Evangelical Armenians.—*The Missionary Review, February, 1889.*