

"The total for the year of above three million copies has only twice been surpassed before, and that was when the Franco-German war, in the one case, and when the Russo-Turkish war and the Paris Exhibition, in the other, caused an exceptionally large distribution. No extraordinary call on anything like the same scale has occurred during the past year. It has been one of quiet but growing work. War gifts have only been required from London for some English soldiers going to Egypt, and from Marseilles, Algiers, and Singapore for some French soldiers going to Tonquin. These have added little to the general circulation of the Scriptures, and the only exceptional items which have appreciably increased it somewhat have been those connected with great public Exhibitions.

"In five of these, last year, the Society took part by providing Scriptures, and bearing some expense for their dissemination by sales and gifts. The great exertions and liberal aid of friends on the spot in Amsterdam, in Zurich, in Nice, and in Calcutta deserve special mention. Nor must the assistance of the Thames Church Mission, in effecting a large but discriminate free distribution at the Fisheries Exhibition in London, be forgotten. At the last-named, permission having been kindly granted for the sale of Scriptures, 11,216 copies were sold from the Society's own stall. Of these, above 3100 were Bibles, and nearly 5,400 were New Testaments. During the present year the Society will similarly take some part at International Exhibitions in Kensington, in the Crystal Palace, and in Turin.

"One prominent feature of the year has been the extensive tours of inspection which have been made by officers of the Society in many of its Foreign Agencies. Visits were paid within the year to almost every country in Europe; and, outside it, to the Caucasus, to Asia Minor, to Syria and Palestine, in Asia; and to Algiers and Morocco in Africa. In the long journeys taken by the two Secretaries in succession, they were privileged to enjoy the pleasant companionship and the invaluable aid of two eminent members of your Committee. F. J. Wood, Esq., LL.D., and J. Bevan Braithwaite, Esq., travelled six and nine thousand miles respectively, placing

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