

vigorously at work, cheerful and hopeful, and highly esteemed by the missionaries of the Board, to whom he had long been known as a distinguished student of theology.

On November 13, while on his way to the town of Gortcha or Koritza, in Albania, and travelling in the humblest manner in a public carriage, Mr. Kyrias was seized by a band of thirty brigands, who carried him off, and have kept him for months in captivity exposed to severe hardships, and permitting him only once, on the day after his capture, to communicate to his friends the notice that he had been seized by brigands, who demand £500 (Turkish) for his ransom. Much prayer has been offered for his release, and every possible effort made, but hitherto in vain. Now, March 3, the intelligence has just reached us that instead of £500 Turkish, the brigands demand a ransom of £2,500 Turkish. How to act in these circumstances it is difficult to decide, for to pay any ransom at all, and much more £2,500 or even £500, may endanger the safety of every colporteur in Turkey; while to withhold the money may lead to the mutilation or even the murder of the unfortunate man. Besides, it is extremely difficult to communicate with the brigands, either for the purpose of attempting to negotiate with them or to pay them the ransom, especially should they be hard pressed by the troops of the Government. During the visit to Monastir of Major Trotter, the military Attaché to H.M. Embassy, the local authorities did exhibit for a time considerable activity in pursuit of the brigands, but without success.

[The Committee have heard with much satisfaction of the release of Mr. Kyrias.]

SOUTH AFRICA.

BASUTOLAND.—An interesting letter to the Society, written by the Rev. A. Mabile, of Morija, found place in last year's report. Dr. Hole's account of his visit to that place will be read with all the more interest, in the recollection of what this Society has done through the French Protestant Mission, of which Mr. Mabile is a distinguished member:—

On my return from the Orange Free State, I passed through part of Basutoland, desiring to see the station of that devoted missionary, Mr. Mabile, and his colleague. I visited Hermon, which, by its dilapidated buildings, exhibits sad signs of the late war, and spent the night at Morija (Mr. Mabile's). I had been prevented, by a miscalculation of distance, from arriving the day previous, and found that a very large number of native converts from out-stations, as well as from the village, had assembled. Mr. Mabile has an enthusiastic and most grateful feeling for the Bible Society, and in some degree he has communicated this to his people. A meeting was, therefore, held, the Society's work dwelt upon, and a collection made in my absence. On my arrival I found that, though many had returned to their homes, the sixteen catechists employed at the out-stations, with others, were still present. A meeting was arranged for in the morning (I had to leave at one o'clock), and it was numerously attended, the large church being nearly full. Among the catechists is one named Asa, who has been long journeys on foot to the Basias and other tribes, aiding in inaugurating new missions. At the close of my address, he rose to speak, and a report of what he said, will, I think, prove interesting:—"Your journey is a most important one, and it has done our hearts good to see and hear the messenger of the great Bible Society. When I was a heathen boy, some one read to me, from a sheet pasted on a board, the story of Mary Magdalene. It very much impressed me: I could not forget it, but I did not know where it came from. I was taught to read, and I learned that the story of Mary Magdalene was to be found in the Christian Gospels. I tried to get a copy, and worked for a man for eight days for one. When I got the book I read it through till I came to the story, and I was full of joy. But in reading I found other stories of equal interest, and I also learned the truth that Jesus is my Saviour, so that it is the most