

brightness too preponderates, it also has those deep shadows, which tend to cast over it a decided effect of darkness and gloom. Thus for example in Greece, we have the records of a marked decrease in the issues,—though there are of course local causes to account for this, and which may perhaps soon disappear; and from the city of Constantinople, the seat of the Sultan's power, we have the same sad account. From South America generally, owing no doubt chiefly, to its past and present distracted state, we have the same reports; in Mexico and Peru, in Monte Video and other of the South American cities.

Turning next to India, we may well admit, that she has a special claim on the sympathies of the British public, as regards religious education, as well as secular training; and it must be confessed, that in the discharge of the former of these, the British Government so far at least, has not yet done its duty. A system of compromise with the prevailing idolatry, nay even of patronage in a certain sense has been adopted, to the utter confusion and disgrace of our nation, as one calling itself by the sacred name of christian; and this most faithless and most fatal policy promises in time, and that perhaps at no distant period, to partly remedy itself. It is said that the education provided by the Government, has a natural tendency to destroy that heathenism and superstition which is the result of mere ignorance, but it supplies nothing in its stead; so that the natives themselves in some instances are beginning to complain, that while the Government schools are robbing them of their old religion, it supplies the people with nothing in its place, they being left to search into the doctrines of the Christian religion for themselves, if they choose,—which, with their present ideas of caste, &c., they are by no means likely to do,—or else to abandon their minds to the barren dogmas of a cold atheism. A plan which seems to be a very excellent one, though applying to only a part of India, has been suggested by the Rev. J. Long, of Calcutta, of presenting a copy of the New Testament to every Native Author and Editor in the Bengal Presidency; a suggestion, which having received the approval of the Committee is being carried into effect. In some parts of India they have found it necessary to discontinue the practice of giving copies of the Scriptures gratis, as in such cases they were neither valued nor read; the rule is now strictly adhered to to sell only, even if at a merely nominal price, and the work consequently seems to be carried on with greater success. In Bombay the Auxiliary has suffered much through the removal, by death or otherwise, of valuable members of the Committee. Special mention is made of the loss by death of the Rev. James Mitchell, of the Free Church of Scotland, for forty-three years a faithful and energetic Missionary in the West of India, and during the same period a most active distributor of the Word of God among all classes of the people. All through India, so far as the work of the Society has as yet been extended, success has in great measure attended the efforts made; but the mere beginning of the work for India is all that has as yet been accomplished.

China, at the present moment, offers peculiar facilities to the active and intelligent Bible distributor. Mr. Wylie, the Agent, has lately made some most important journeys, into parts of the country where a foreign face had never previously been seen. His whole report is a most interesting one, and the tale of his success at times, seems perfectly marvellous. It will be sufficient here to mention, that in his journeys, with his two European Assistants, they disposed of nearly 80,000 copies of the Word of God. The need of China is indeed great; four hundred millions of people, having immortal souls, and dying daily, demand every effort which can be made in their behalf, far far more assistance than we are as yet able to give.

We may now turn our thoughts to France, as the most interesting field of operation by far, during the year; and with this part of the Report your Committee will conclude the whole account of Foreign work. France, during the past year, has afforded a field of immense and peculiar interest,—far beyond the common interest attaching to the ordinary successful work. The well timed efforts made at the International Exhibition at Paris, to disseminate the Word of God and to create a sympathy in favour of Bible work, met with entire suc-