

sold during the year in very considerable numbers, as compared with the limited distribution previously effected.

With reference to this latter circumstance, Mr. Barker says:—Among the many interesting features of our work, which have come to cheer the hearts of those who love the Word, is the desire of many Turks to be made acquainted with the "Book of Truth." During the past year, not fewer than 1,278 copies of the Scriptures were circulated, almost entirely by sale, amongst the Turks at Constantinople, Smyrna, and elsewhere in the interior of Asia Minor; whilst during thirty-five years that I have been the Society's agent in Turkey, I should be afraid to say, that 35 copies of the Scriptures were accepted as gifts by the followers of the false prophet. This unexpected blessing on our work in Turkey has since been followed by the imperial firman, lately issued, in which liberty of conscience has been also granted to Turks! Must we not, therefore, conclude that the Lord is preparing great things for these benighted lands? The agent of the Society received, from the Committee, instructions to furnish such supplies to the troops as were necessary; to use every means to place the Scriptures in the possession of all who were found destitute, and were willing to accept a copy. This arrangement applied to all sections of the army, French and Sardinian, no less than British; to the hospitals as well as to the camps. The result of the effort was most cheering. By the means of the persons employed, tens of thousands of New Testaments have been dispersed among those who have gratefully appreciated the boon. A number of interesting incidents connected with this distribution are given in the Parent Society's Report, but one or two will suffice for this brief outline.

Mr. Costabel writes,—“I went only once to the French Camp at Mâslak, because just now there are few troops occupying it. On my way thither I met five or six soldiers coming to Constantinople; I put several questions to them, amongst which, I enquired if the Testaments I distributed in their camp were read or not? ‘Read,’ replied one of them, ‘assuredly so, and for this some have been threatened to be punished.’ Having manifested my surprise, he continued, ‘Ah, Monsieur, it is not because they read them, for all the world does so; but because they read to a late hour, even till one o’clock, after midnight.’”

The distribution to the Sardinian troops was equally interesting. The soldiers, away from their own country and exposed to the perils of warfare, evinced the utmost eagerness to obtain the Scriptures, and on ascertaining the abode of the Colporteur, resorted thither to put in their claim for a New Testament,—a book which few of them ever handled before.

A correspondent, who was engaged in this distribution, thus writes from Balaklava:

“In the present fulness of my heart, I feel that, if I am to leave this peninsula to-morrow, for the first time in my life I could be satisfied with what our Father has enabled me to do, and that I could say, ‘I have finished the work thou gavest me to do;’ such is the extraordinary extent to which His truth has been disseminated, and is evidently taking root. If, this evening, after tattoo,