

"The two native Agents of Dagusa were brought before Government by the Christian Abyssinian priesthood, and accused as heretics, because they did not worship the saints. They testified openly before the judge that such an act was against the Word of God. When the priests heard this they were angry, and forbade them to visit their churches any more. Three times the people assembled themselves by night to set fire to their houses; once they wanted to kill some with the sword. With God's help they escaped every time.

"Though we have many enemies, and are obliged to submit to much insult, sneering and contempt on account of the name of Jesus, yet we can but rejoice thereat, and with the help of God we will not cease to be trumpets of the grace of God, till the cross of Christ gains the victory in Ethiopia, and the Word of God, like a clear stream, flows from one end of the land to the other."

GREECE.

A check has been given to that "genuine spirit of inquiry" of which mention was made in the last Report as having arisen among the Greek people. Irritated probably and disconcerted by the progress of evangelical truth, both the Holy Synod, as the highest ecclesiastical court of Greece, and the Ministry of Instruction and Worship, have made a determined effort to put down the circulation of the Scriptures. From two of the Society's correspondents the local authorities took away their books, and sent them to be examined at Athens. Mr. Koulouriotis, your representative at that city, applied for them in vain, and at last received a reply in the shape of a public circular from the Synod, anathematizing the Modern Greek translation of the Scriptures, and even the Ancient Greek Testament published by the Society, along with certain books bearing on the study of the Bible and published by other parties. A second circular followed from the Minister of Instruction, forbidding the sale of these books altogether, and speaking of them in terms which, as applied to the Scriptures, were simply infamous. This manifesto, however, was found to be illegal; and it was superseded by a third which did not actually prohibit the sale of the books referred to, but debarred them from being employed in the national schools, directed the authorities everywhere to warn the people against purchasing them, and again spoke of them in the most abusive terms.

The effect was instantaneous. On the one hand, the fanatical and ignorant were encouraged to acts of intolerance and violence, and multitudes were prejudiced against the Word of God; but on the other hand, there was evoked from the talented Greek press a powerful remonstrance against such tyranny, and occasion was given for several very able defences of the translation of the Scriptures into Modern Greek in general, and in particular of the fidelity of the translation circulated by the Society; and it cannot be doubted that by this discussion the cause of truth and liberty has been a decided gainer. The subsequent action of the Holy Synod was not once so puerile and so marked by enmity to the Word of God, as abundantly to justify the following comments made by your agent:—

"As it was admitted that our translation, though honest, might be improved, a proposal was made to meet the Synod half-way, by suggesting that the Bible Societies of Britain and America might probably agree to defray the cost of revising the existing translation, if the Synod would accept a version in the modern language prepared by theologians appointed by themselves, along with representatives from the two Societies; but a communication was received from the secretary of the Synod, intimating that the petition could not even be presented to the Synod, first, because it was not written on paper of the usual kind; next, because it used expressions inconsistent with the dignity of the Synod; and lastly, because it did not leave the choice and appointment of the whole of the proposed revisers to the Synod alone. The whole history of this affair appears to me to reflect anything but credit on the