

such localities there is not only ample room for the labours of such an institution as that which you support, but were your operations to be suspended only for a time, it would at once become manifest that a want existed which no other agency now employed was able to supply. It is with deep feelings of gratitude that Mr. Plenge reviews the work of the past year, and conveys to your Committee the thanks of his countrymen for the liberality which they have experienced at your hands. Your kindness is duly appreciated by all classes, but especially by the poor, who feel the advantage not only of a cheap Bible, but of having that Book offered to them in their own dwelling. There has been a slight decrease in the number of New Testaments circulated, as compared with the year preceding, but still 20,009 volumes is a goodly number; and if only a small portion of this seed yields fruit to life eternal, the cost of the labour will have been well bestowed.

RUSSIA.

The past year, as regards the work of the Scripture circulation in Russia, has been one of continued progress and of marked success. New channels of distribution have been opened and the Word of God has been carried to the remotest parts of this vast empire. Nor has the spirit of gratitude with which it has been received, at all come short of the spirit of love with which it has been bestowed. Eagerness to possess the Bible has long been a well known feature of the Russian character, and hence the facility with which every agency, whether it be that of the Colporteur, or the bookseller, or the private individual, accomplishes its purpose, and ensures a ready assent to the invitation which it issues, when it summons the sinner to search the Scriptures, and assures him that life and immortality are brought to light by the Gospel. From your Dépôt at St. Petersburg the welcome tidings have been conveyed to thousands resorting to the Fair at Nishny, to similar numbers dwelling on the banks of the Volga and the Don, on the shores of the Sea of Azof, and the Black Sea, and even to the very limits of the Caucasus; whilst other friends and correspondents who have sympathised with your benevolent work have extended their willing services to the pilgrims at Kiev, to the soldiers and the dwellers on the shores of the Aral Sea and to the exiles of Siberia. Nor have these labours been unrequited.—Expressions of deep gratitude have reached your Agency from those distant parts, which prove that the proffered boon is highly esteemed, and that the truth of God has excited emotions and kindled hopes which the same Truth alone can avail to satisfy. Your Committee took advantage of the visit of the Rev. S. B. Bergne to St. Petersburg, to present to the Emperor of Russia a copy of the Bible, handsomely bound, and accompanied by a suitable address. It was hoped that Mr. Bergne would have been enabled to have obtained a personal interview, but he was obliged to leave before the Emperor returned, and he consequently sought the good offices of Sir Andrew Buchanan, the English Ambassador, who kindly undertook the presentation. The following are copies of the address, which was signed by the Earl of Shaftesbury, on behalf of your society, and of Baron Brunnow's reply thereto;—