

support of the Senate of Finland, to travel in Russian Lapland with a view of making some researches into the language and social condition of the people, and ascertaining how far the New Testament translated by the Norwegian Bible Society will be available for the Lapps in North Russia. The Karels, or Karelians, are another Finnish tribe, in whose language the first Russian Bible Society translated the Gospel according to St. Matthew, but for whom nothing has been done since.

SIBERIA, OR ASIATIC RUSSIA.—As has already been explained, great difficulties exist in connection with the circulation of the Scriptures in this vast territory, but a commencement has been made which will form the nucleus of more extensive operations. A sub-depôt has been opened at Tomsk, the commercial capital of the country, a bookselling firm recommended by the Governor of the territory having received a number of Scriptures on commission. They entertain the hope that when the depot becomes better known a very large circulation of the Scriptures will take place. This is rendered more probable by the fact that a University is about to be established at Tomsk. The issues of the past year have amounted to 650 copies. Sanction has also been given to the appointment of a colporteur to travel through the country and visit the principal fairs, but hitherto no suitable person has been found. Some Mongolian Scriptures have been circulated through an ecclesiastic connected with the mission at Irkutsk, who has since expressed himself most favourably with reference to the merits of the translation, and whilst asking for a further supply, encourages the idea of a new edition.

Your agent closes his report with an ascription of praise to God for these small beginnings in a field which till recently was unoccupied, and prays that the Sun of Righteousness which has begun to dawn upon some of the most prominent points of this vast continent may soon strike upon the hearts of the wandering sons of the steppe and of the desert, lighten the suffering of the numerous convicts who are expiating their crimes in penal servitude, and eventually irradiate the whole land.

CHARKOFF.—It is an encouraging feature of the Society's work that its depots are largely used by the managers of schools in providing the young with the Word of God. The Truth imbibed in childhood often makes an indelible impression, and though practically neglected for a time, is recalled to mind in the hour of sickness or sorrow, and becomes the source of strength and consolation to many a weary and heavy-laden soul. A considerable number of copies have been distributed in this way, both from the Odessa and Charkoff depôts, and the Curator of the Caucasian Educational Circuit issued a Circular to all the schools in his district, drawing their attention to the facilities which the Society's depôts offered for procuring the editions of the Scriptures printed by the Holy Synod.

TIFLIS.—Your Committee have been very desirous to print a popular edition of the Ararat Armenian Testament, and the Caucasian Censors' Committee gave the necessary permission for printing it at Tiflis; but it was required by law that the proposal should also be submitted to the Patriarch of the Armenian Gregorian Church, and he refused to accede to the request. It will therefore be printed at Constantinople. Colporteur Streike has recently visited the seat of this Patriarch, and although he was eventually sent away, he first succeeded in selling to the priests and monks of his establishment, Scriptures to the amount of £10, whilst in a neighbouring village he sold a still larger number. As the two other colporteurs retired from the Society's service in the course of the spring, though not before they had circulated 2,280 and 1,729 copies respectively, colporteur Streike is the only one whose labours extend over the whole year, and he has effected a sale of 5,040 volumes. Mr. Watt thus refers to his work:—

"Something of Streike's undertaking may be understood when it is stated that, among other places, he visited Vedenno, Shamil's stronghold, where,