

work was impeded by the Ultramontane party on the one hand and the social and democratic party on the other. As regarded the former there were not wanting proofs that the old persecuting spirit still exists. The total circulation in Germany was 461,188 copies, being 10 per cent. in advance of 1873. There were 64 colporteurs. While one of them was at Baden-Baden last summer the Emperor came to his stall, and said, with a friendly nod, "The Empress will come by-and-by, and make some purchases; I daresay you reckon myself as one of your best customers." His Majesty contributes 25% annually to the Society, and 45% besides for supplies of the Scriptures to the army. During the year 55,000 copies had been supplied to the Prussian troops. The difficulties of Christian work in Austria had long been such as to depress the hearts of those who had been engaged in it, and the spirit of opposition had been often manifested in a practical form. An illustration of this was afforded last year, when the body of a colporteur was found in a mutilated state in a mountainous district, there being good reason to believe that he fell a victim to the fanatical hatred of the people. Signs of encouragement in Austria were not lacking. A hall had been recently opened in Vienna for Bible reading on Sunday, and in giving permission the Commissioner of Police said, "For so good a work, I could wish that fifty halls were opened." Full licence for colportage had been granted in certain provinces of Austria proper. The Austrian agencies circulated in the year 115,415 copies. Those agencies included Poland. The Society's depot at Warsaw was called by the priests "the Antichristian shop," the cause of that being that a number of Jews went there to purchase the Bible shortly before the Jewish day of atonement. The Italian agencies of the Society operates from Venice to Algiers, being superintended from Rome, where the Society's depot continued open. Malta and the North African coast afford little encouragement. In North Italy many incidents have occurred which show the progress of truth. The total circulation connected with Italy was 38,750 copies. In afflicted Spain the circulation had fallen from 77,000 to 50,000. 18 colporteurs were employed during the year. Portugal somewhat counterbalanced the diminished circulation of Spain. The cir-