

It is noticeable that at present there is a good deal of inquiry after a commentary on the Scriptures; but such a work will not be easily forthcoming, as the Holy Synod alone could issue it. The British and Foreign Bible Society is already known by reputation to the Russian people. In Ostaslikoff, the colporteurs came and went round the market without much success. At last the people began to understand that they had not to do with mere book hawkers, and began to purchase. Not only so, but they called the colporteurs from the street into their shops, and bought some Bibles and some New Testaments. Said one man, "I did not observe what you said yesterday, and thought you were only ordinary dealers; but now that you are from the Bible Society, give me a Bible and a large print New Testament. I have a Slavonian Bible, but can only understand it with difficulty." Our colporteur then went into a smithy, where a number of men were at work. "Why have you not brought us entertaining books?" said they. "What should sinful men like us do with the Bible?" Our colporteur said that the Bible was just for sinful men—even the greatest of sinners. "What!" said the smith, "does God need sinful men?" Our colporteur turned up Luke xix. 10:—"The Son of man came to seek and save the lost." "Yes," continued the colporteur; pointing to the sledge hammer in the smith's hand, "just as you soften the iron in the fire and then fashion it with the hammer, so does the Lord with the fire and hammer of His Word." The smith stood motionless at this news. The labourers said:—"We smiths and tailors are looked upon as the lowest of the people, as mere 'blackworkers.'" (This is a Russian term for the humble class of workers). "The Lord does not look upon the exterior but upon the inner man of the heart," answered the colporteur. "But," said he, "none can see a spirit." "Yes," said the colporteur, "God sees all things, even the spirit of man." The blacksmith's wife came and stood in the door and said, "You have six roubles which I have saved." (All his goods being under arrest for debt). The blacksmith took a rouble from her, and paid for a large print Russ New Testament.

TURKEY.

During the past year the Society opened a new centre of circulation in the town of Monastir in Western Macedonia. The object was to advance its importance among the Albanian people; but as difficulties had arisen, which had long prevented the admission of the Albanian Scriptures directly into Albania, it was considered advisable to disseminate them in Western Macedonia, where there are many Albanians, and where Albanian Scriptures had not been prohibited. Monastir was selected both as containing about a thousand Albanian families, as being on the great highway from Albania to Salonica, and as being already a station of the Mission of the American Board to the Bulgarians, from whose missionaries we confidently looked for counsel and encouragement to the Society's agents. Accordingly, Mr. Gerasim Kyrias, a preacher of the Gospel, who had been trained in the Theological Seminary of the American Mission, was sent there to his native town, as superintendent of colportage, accompanied by Colporteur Tsiku, also an Albanian, in the month of June. They were cordially welcomed by the Revs. Messrs. Baird and Bond, who also materially aided them in commencing their work. A house was hired. Colporteur Tsiku went forth to colport, and Mr. Kyrias soon began a regular weekly Albanian service in his own house, which was attended usually by from thirty to fifty, and likewise made at least one important and successful visit to the neighbouring town of Krushevo, where he both preached the Gospel in Albanian, and sold every Albanian, and indeed every other copy of the Scriptures he had taken with him, as well as defended his liberty to preach and sell against the intrigues of the Greek Bishop and of the Turkish Governor, who was but too ready to lend himself to injustice. It was shortly after this that your Agent visited Monastir on his return from Bulgaria. He was delighted to find Mr. Kyrias