

tude and praise to God. If the Russian people, whilst conscious of the power which education necessarily imparts, are to be maintained in loyalty and peace, their minds must be purified, and their knowledge sanctified by the Word of God; and though the end which the Bible Society has in view is chiefly spiritual in its nature, yet it is well to bear in mind that it exercises a beneficial influence upon the political state of the countries in which it labours, as well as upon the social condition of its inhabitants.

To work on continuously in faith and hope is the only way of dealing with such a problem as the evangelization of Russia. It is no use to pause and scan the strength of giant foes, or the difficulties of the country. In God's strength, and with His guidance, we are well able to possess it, and there are many voices which seem to speak and say, "Go forward." This will be more manifest as we review the position which the Society occupies, and the progress which it has made during the last year. The Rev. W. Nicholson, whose report is most encouraging, not only on account of the success to which it bears testimony, but because it seems to emanate from a mind having a firm grasp of the subject with which it deals in all its bearings, makes Moscow the starting point of his observations, as it is the central point of his agency.

Moscow.—The success which has attended the opening of a depot in this city is represented as being most satisfactory, and no place could be more suitable. A motley population of Russians, Greeks, Turks, Tartars, Armenians and Jews is to be found here, which serves to remind one of the scene of Pentecost, though it leaves one thirsting for the blessing which was then bestowed. Four book hawkers laboured amongst these mixed nationalities, whilst booksellers in the city and correspondents from the surrounding country have opened communication with the depot and become purchasers of Scriptures. Here, too, the first step has been taken towards supplying the blind, who, in Russia, are said to number 120,000, with portions of God's Word in raised characters. Mr. Nicholson took advantage of his visit to England to communicate the subject to Dr. Moon, of Brighton, whose sympathies were readily enlisted on behalf of these poor sufferers. Specimens of Scriptures in embossed type, for their use, have already been prepared, and are under examination, and the Holy Synod looks favourably upon their circulation, under certain restrictions, which are intended to guarantee the accuracy of the text. The issues from the Moscow depot have reached a total of 93,371 copies.

THE GRAND DUCHY OF FINLAND.—The rapid exhaustion of editions of the Finnish Scriptures, which have not yet been replaced, and the necessary recall of a colporteur who had been employed with considerable success in Finland, have had some influence in retarding the progress of the work in this part of Mr. Nicholson's agency, and yet the circulation has reached a higher figure by 7,000 than it did last year, having amounted to 27,171. A renewed effort is about to be made to penetrate many outlying villages of this interesting country, which cannot be reached by other channels, by means of colportage, a young man having offered himself for the work who is well recommended. Attention has lately been called to the necessities of the Russian Lapps in connection with the Word of God; and your agent visited Stockholm and Christiania last summer with a view of obtaining information which might be of use in any action which it was thought right to take. No Scriptures, it seems, now exist in their language, though in the first years of the Bible Society some effort was made to supply them. The Norwegian Bible Society has completed the translation of the New Testament, and is now engaged upon the Old, and the Swedish Missionary Society is preparing a catechism and some religious books, but the Bible for the Swedish Lapps has become a scarce book, and the Russian Lapps have no Scriptures in their dialect. A member of the University of Helsingfors has proposed, with the