

fresh translations begun and revisions advanced? in agents raised up and in souls led by the Bible to Christ? In the vast Russian Empire the circulation of the Holy Book still grows; in Mohammedan lands an accustomed readiness to read the Bible is seen. Eastern wars have improved the prospects of Bible diffusion. Eastern martyrdoms have given a sacred influence to a new translation. Eastern Bible Women have let Gospel light fall on more inmates of dark zenanas. Students of the Bible in Uganda increase by thousands. On and on goes the living book. "Our labor is not in vain in the Lord." Four years of heavy deficits have been followed by four years which have cancelled those deficits and left a surplus.

This has been achieved by careful management and by the aid of generous donations and some large legacies. Plans adopted some years ago have had time to tell, and the newest resources of art have been turned to account to the effect with safety the reduction of the Scriptures stored in sheets and in the size of the editions printed at one time. A fourth European Protestant country, Denmark, has been left to provide the sacred Scriptures for itself. The general fund or really new income of 1895-96 was £126,372 11s. 11d., £11,403 7s. 9d. less than that of 1894-95. A fall of £9,555 7s. 0d. in legacies accounts for most of the decrease. At the same time the receipts from the sales of Scriptures stand at £87,590 2s. 1d., as against £93,552, 18s. 1d., in the previous year. A large part of this decrease is attributable to the depreciation of silver in so many countries where the Society is circulating the scriptures. There is a large consequent loss under "exchange" in adjusting the accounts for sales effected in such lands. The gross receipts of the year from all sources came to £213,962, 14s. 0d., and the falling off in the whole is £17,366 3s. 9d. Decreased receipts have been met by decreased expenditure for the time being. Measures have been taken for the developing of the work in India, China and elsewhere. This will increase the charges of the current year, and no relaxation of effort must be made in order to avoid future years of deficit. Issues for the year show a total of 3,970,437 in Bibles, Testaments and portions. A figure higher than that of last year by 133,270 copies, and one that *all but reaches four millions*. For three successive years the wave of circulation has advanced. The issues of the Society from 1804, its commencement, now amount to 147,366,669 copies. There is still scope for many more issues and translations, before the world's needs are met.

When the population of British Protectorates is added to that of the Empire proper, the number of souls now alive under the British flag outnumbers the above issues of Scriptures in these ninety-two years by two hundred millions. The forward evangelistic efforts which are now

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