

REPORT.

Your Committee desire again at this time, to express their deep sense of obligation and of gratitude to Almighty God,—the Author of the Bible—for the great success afforded to this Society in the dissemination of this holy word, in almost every part of the world. God favours His own work; and though it be carried on by really feeble instruments, though they are but sinful men who have this charge and task allotted to them, yet by God's blessing, the holy and blessed work prospers beyond all calculation. We are now in the sixty-fourth year of this venerable and laborious Society, and each year but adds to its usefulness, its labour and success, its increasing glory. Chosen by God to be the messenger of the Gospel into almost all lands, it has had grace and strength given to it according to its day, according to its actual present need; and in God's own good time, we may expect to see this Society bearing a far larger share of labour, and carrying out a far larger and more extended work of usefulness, even bearing the message fully, in all languages, to all parts of the world. At present we have to chronicle great things,—how much greater, when this Society has become as large, and its operations as extended, as the surface of the world will permit, as the numerous and scattered nations upon it can need or desire!

Your Committee would first, call your attention to some particulars of the Home Report, so far as these may appear interesting,—especially with regard to Foreign work; and will then proceed to furnish an account of the local work which has been done during the past year.

The nations of the earth generally, are of course in much the same positions, and bearing much the same relationships towards each other now, as formerly was the case; but, one notable political change has lately taken place, viz., as regards the relationship of Prussia and Austria, and of both these to the rest of the world; and as political changes often affect to a very great extent the work of the Society, we may well be rejoiced to learn, that whatever may be the political changes which have of late taken place on the Continent of Europe, they have uniformly resulted in an increased measure of usefulness and an extended sphere of action for this Society. Prussia has greatly extended the actual working-ground of the Society, by the late short but very important war Prussia herself has benefited; and so also it appears has Austria. In Berlin the sales and circulation of the Scriptures have greatly increased during the past year; the increase being in this case, largely attributable to the purchases made for soldiers during the late war. Turning to Austria, it is to be remarked that a great change for the better has of late taken place, as regards the relationship existing between this Society and the Government. In 1852, when Mr. Millard, the Agent of the Society, was endeavouring to secure a permanent position for Bible distribution in that country, his Bibles and Testaments were, by order of the Government, sent beyond the border, amid the tears and sighs of many of the people; but in 1866, the rulers of this country have seen fit to pursue a different and more enlightened policy. Mr. Millard is now permitted to reside in the capital city Vienna, and his Bible-work there he reports, has met with remarkable success. Within a year, the Bible circulation within the limits of his district has multiplied nearly three-fold; and, for last year, being the third only of his operations, the total circulation amounted to no less than 156,000 copies. The superintendence of Mr. Millard extends also over Poland. Until last year, nothing scarcely, worthy of mention, had been accomplished for that unhappy country as regards the free circulation