

## SWEDEN.

It is now ten years since the Agency, whose active labours in this country we this day record, was re-organized, and entered a new upon the work to which so much zeal and energy have been devoted. Ten years appear but a short period when we look back upon the eventful course of time; but when we consider how few are man's appointed days upon earth, and how rapidly opportunities of usefulness pass by, never to return, who can tell the amount of responsibility which attaches to such a season of usefulness as this? We must not however always measure success by numbers, or imagine that the extent of our issues are an unvarying test of prosperity. Fluctuations will at times occur which it is difficult to account for, and God may try the faith and patience of the most earnest by allowing a retrograde rather than a progressive movement to be the present feature of their work.

Such has been the case this year with the Stockholm Agency, though to a very small extent. The issues which last year amounted to 93,548, have this year fallen to 92,981.

## RUSSIA.

Though the same restrictions still exist as regards the action of your Society in Russia, your Committee cannot but rejoice that the work which they have at heart is being accomplished, apart from their instrumentality.

The St. Petersburg Agency, in reviewing the course of events during the past year, is able to present a very favourable Report of the spread of Christian truth, by means of the circulation of the Word of God. Previous Reports have already conveyed the important intelligence that an excellent translation of the New Testament into Modern Russ has been extensively printed and issued by the Synod of the Russo-Greek Church. This work has proceeded during the past year, and additional advantages for circulation have been given by the issue of a 24mo. edition, which, from its low cost (only 5d.), and from its portable character, is extremely well adapted for the use of the soldier and the young. This edition has been eagerly bought, and there is no doubt that it will still meet with an extensive demand. The first editions were in 8vo., and it is now proposed to print the New Testament in a larger type. In this way the wants of all classes will be met, and evidence is given of a steady progress in this important work. It is estimated that about three-quarters of a million of copies have already been printed, and most of these have been put into circulation.

It is also a gratifying fact that the primary education, so necessary as a preliminary to Bible circulation, meets with much attention from the Government. Many reforms have been recently introduced into the educational establishments with a view to promote their efficiency. Special attention is bestowed on the education of the soldiers, and periodicals adapted for their use are now circulated among them. The work of serf liberation has been going on satisfactorily, the difficulties occurring being only such as were unavoidable in making so great a change. It is an interesting feature in the general aspect of the country that a Society has lately been formed by the Jews with the special object of promoting education among their young men. An asylum has also been established in St. Petersburg for poor Jewish girls.

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