

not to relax effort until the whole land was won for Christ. The 'depôt' at Alexandria he found well situated and in excellent order. At Cairo, the American Mission has completed new premises on a most advantageous site; and space has been reserved for a 'depôt' to be supported jointly by the mission, the American Bible Society and your own. The 'depôt' was opened in January, and Dr. Lansing already reports increasing sales. A colporteur-evangelist, named Mansoor, who has been labouring in the Thebaid, sold on one journey 251 volumes, and on another 336.

"His mode of procedure was to meet in every place he visited with the avowed Protestants or such as were willing to join him, and read out and expound a portion of Scripture with conversation and prayer. The topics discussed were identical with those which engage the colporteurs in other parts of the field. With the Coptic Christians he had to prove the utter worthlessness of protracted fasts and rites and ceremonies, and the sin and dishonour to the Lord Jesus involved in the worship of pictures and the prayers of saints and angels; while with the Moslems he had to assert from Scripture the Divine nature, and the atoning death and glorious resurrection and ascension of the eternal Son, and with both to insist on the necessity of repentance, faith, and an entire renewal of the heart by the Holy Spirit. One interesting feature of his meetings, that your colporteurs in other quarters seldom report, was the attendance at almost all of them of women and children, though in fewer numbers than the men."

The acquisition by England of extensive rights in the Suez Canal involves obligations on her part towards the people who dwell about it. Acknowledging this responsibility, an arrangement was made last year by your Committee for Mr. Spillenaer of the Dutch Mission at Galioub to make an experimental journey of colportage among the canal towns. He appeared to your Agent, who saw him, to possess the best qualification for the work, in simple faith, Christian zeal and intelligence, energy and pleasant manners; and his success so far has justified this favourable impression. On his first tour he sold 77 copies, and on the second 150, the greater number at Suez, Ismailia and Port Said.

ABYSSINIA.

The recent war with Egypt has not been favourable to mission work in Abyssinia. In the north King John of Tigre and Amhara is considered a great hero and even a saint for having repulsed the invaders; but his subjects rejoice with trembling, apprehending that, when the Egyptian troops are no longer wanted in Europe, they will make a fresh attack, and with their Mohammedan ferocity do their utmost to root Christianity out of the land. A severe blow was dealt last July at Christian work by an encounter between the Governor of Hammasien and the rebel chief Rao, in which the town of Zazega was destroyed and the inhabitants butchered, including all the Christians and two of the missionaries. Hence it is at present impossible to send Scriptures into the highlands from Massowa. The Rev. B. P. Lundahl has bravely held his ground at this port; and announces the sale of 63 volumes and the free gift of 81, chiefly in the Amharic-Ethiopic version.

The Amharic books are more in demand in the South, where King Menelik continues to take a great interest in their dissemination amongst his soldiers, clergy and principal men. The missionaries, however, in the province of Shoa describe in pathetic terms how they sent special messengers all the way to Massowa, a distance, as the crow flies, of over 400 miles, only to have them return empty-handed, as there were no supplies for them to bring. The disappointment was the greater as just then the missionaries had an opportunity of distributing a great number of Scriptures among the thousands of Abyssinians who were assembling at Debra Libanos, a celebrated place of pilgrimage. As it was impossible to reach the interior by any other route, your Committee made inquiries about the roads from Tadjourra or