

OLD SERVIA AND UPPER MACEDONIA.—In no part of the agency are there to be found more distinct evidences of the power of Divine Truth than in this district, a result which Dr. Thomson ascribes largely to the faithful zeal and blameless character of the colporteur Klundt. It comprises a fairly representative population—Bulgarians and Servians, Turks, Greeks, Jews and Circassians, and Gheg and Tosk Albanians. The Greeks are the most advanced of these in point of education, having trained teachers and schools for both boys and girls. They, however, almost uniformly oppose the circulation of the Scriptures, which is the more to be regretted as it is said to arise from ecclesiastical differences among themselves. The gipsies are also a numerous race. Dr. Thomson identifies them with “the outcasts of Elam” mentioned by Jeremiah, and gives a pleasing instance of the power of Divine grace as manifested in the conversion of one of them, though for the most part they have no religion. He writes :—

“It was in this town of Prilipp that in the following month of March Klundt got acquainted with a gipsy named Eliah, whom he describes as very near the kingdom of God. This man had some time before bought a New Testament, and now requested Klundt to visit him and instruct him as to some points which he had noted. One of these referred to the coming of the Lord, as described in Matt. 24 ; another had reference to the use of the Lord’s Prayer, and whether it alone were sufficient for all occasions. As to the former, Klundt enforced the practical precept, “Be ye also ready ;” while he took occasion from the latter to show from Scripture example that our prayers should be the utterance of our wants, and to explain how daily family worship is conducted in all truly Christian families. He was delighted to find that this man had already opened a sort of Sabbath School for his own people, in which he taught adults of both sexes to read in Bulgarian, and instructed them in the elementary truths of the Bible ; so true is it that grace, even in its earliest stages, manifests by deeds of kindness its transforming influence on the heart.

At Prishtina he received an invitation to the house of a Bulgarian shopkeeper to whom he had sold a Bible two years before. This man had read it through three times, and had received all the cardinal doctrines of the Gospel, and amidst much opposition confessed the name of Jesus. In two other towns, Bjeeb and Kratova, he met with much encouragement, finding in the first a lady of some wealth, who was also rich in good works and anxiously seeking after the Truth, and in the second a disciple wholly on the Lord’s side, and who has such delight in reading the Scriptures, that he is not ashamed to face hatred and opposition in his confession of Christ. The sales of Klundt have amounted to 562 copies.

#### RUSSIA.

There are many circumstances at the present time connected with the Russian Empire, both as regards the development of its resources, and the condition of its inhabitants, calculated to encourage the hope that the circulation of God’s Word throughout its vast extent will be marked by a very rapid growth. The proportion of persons who can read to the general population has been increased, within no distant period, a hundred-fold. The Russian Government is giving every encouragement to the establishment of elementary schools throughout the empire ; and as the length of military service, which is now compulsory, is considerably shortened when the soldier has received a good education, parents are using every effort to bring up their sons to the required standard. In addition to this, the network of railways which already covers European Russia, gives great facilities for locomotion, and others which are projected, or in course of construction, will ere long open a ready access to regions so remote as hitherto almost to appear inaccessible. Nor is the increased freedom which is given to evangelical efforts of all kinds less worthy of observation, or less calculated to call forth grati-