

the translation of the New Testament in the vernacular dialect. Since the year 1824 no edition of the Scriptures in modern Russ has been published in Russia itself; and although the people have been supplied with the Slavonic version, yet there can be no doubt that the intelligent perusal of the Scriptures will be greatly promoted by the new translation, and that they will be read by many who would not have made the attempt had they been confined to the obsolete type and language of the old version. Abundant proof might be furnished of the very general interest taken in the new edition, and of the eagerness with which it has been purchased whenever it has been brought to the knowledge and within the reach of those who are able to read.

Passing over SPAIN and PORTUGAL, which are still closed to the entrance of the Bible, and in the former of which countries a relentless persecution has been carried on against noble men who brave loss of liberty rather than abjure the Word of God, we next turn our attention to ITALY.

Great efforts have been made in this beautiful country during the last few years, and with no small measure of success, but the results of the past year have not proved quite so satisfactory as those mentioned in the last report. Various reasons are given for this, which show the necessity of increasing the number of the agents employed in order to dispel the darkness which pervades to a very large extent the minds of the people. And yet it is a subject of congratulation that the Society was permitted to scatter nearly 27,000 Bibles and Testaments, and to have an average of 29 Colporteurs constantly employed in its service.

After reviewing the efforts made in many of the principal cities of Italy, the Committee adds that they are by no means discouraged. The copies of the Scriptures circulated during the last have fallen below the issues of the preceding year.

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