

The paper on our first page is from the pen of Mr. Barnes. The hand that wrote it will write no more ; but by many thousands it will be read and made a blessing. His works will follow him.

*Oroomiah Persia.*—Sometimes difficulties are encountered where we should least expect them. But the work in Persia should not be neglected, and the Agents of the American Bible Society are not likely to be turned aside from duty, however severe the toils of the enterprise.

“Amid such circumstances, the sale of eighty-six copies of the Holy Scriptures is a fact to occasion joy and hope. The reader will pray that the seed thus cast into the ground may yield an abundant harvest.”

The accompanying letter of the Agent will be perused with interest. He says :—

In the summer tour the books were sold chiefly in Bashkulla and vicinity, and the balance on the way to Van. On reaching there few were left. Sego found there a wonderful demand, and if 500 copies had been in his hands at that time, all would probably have been taken up in a short time, as then there was no obstacle in the way of their sale. On his return from this tour, Sego (the colporteur) was laid up for several weeks by sickness, and was just able to start with me, October 1, for my tour. We took along a small load of books to dispose of—The Armenian in Van, and the Syriac in Bootan. Some were sold on the way ; but the greatest part are still, I suppose, in the hands of the pasha of Van. Of what befel us then I wrote you in a note via Mardin ; I hope it reached you. We expected to remain in Van but one day ; but, by the forcible seizure of the books, we were there eight days. So long a stay excited much curiosity and inquiry, as well as opposition. The demand for books was truly urgent, increased probably by the fact that the school-books and other books for sale are few, inferior, and expensive—altogether inadequate to the wants of the 2,000 scholars, and still larger number of other readers in the city.

I will give you a little account of our first interview with the pasha, as an item in the Bible work. On our entering the city in the afternoon, the books were seized and carried to the serai. The next day I called on the pasha. He was very affable, and personally examined the books, and at once bought copies of all those in Turkish. He then appointed a commission to certify that there was nothing in them of a political nature, and nothing aimed at Islam, saying, that lately stringent orders had come from the Porte to this effect. For the Syriac books, Erumya was appointed. (He was once a helper of the Mosul station, but left the service and the faith, and is now the agent of Mar Shimon and the Independent Nestorians, and lives in Van.) The mufti was to examine and pass the Turkish books, and the chief Armenian ecclesiastic the Armenian books, and each book was to be stamped with the seal of the Medjlis—rather a suspicious process, it struck me, and so I thought I would stay by and watch operations. The Syriac books were easily passed, but the mufti was so thick-headed that he read the Testament with difficulty. He and many other Moslems present never had seen it before. Several copies of it in Turkish had been already taken by members of the Medjlis, and others in high quarters. The mufti thought the passages that spoke of Christ as God rather dangerous doctrine for true believers ; but yielded the point that the book could be sold, on the ground that it was the New Testament which all Christians had accepted for centuries. Meantime the Armenian member of the commission was looking on. Poghos Karabash, the chief priest of the ecclesiastics, was indisposed and could not come. The pasha then commanded him to send an agent. One came, and a more sour and stupid-looking man it would be difficult to find. When his turn came, he with some difficulty was induced to take a book into his hands ; he read