

TURKEY.

From all parts of this Agency come reports of maltreatment, persecution, and even imprisonment, endured by your colporteurs. That men like Seefried in Roumelia, Sevastides in Albania, Yanelli at Mitylene, and Maschobakes at Rhodes, have been able to persevere in their work at all is due, under the blessing of Him who defends His servants, partly to earnestness and patience in the men themselves, and partly to the stand made on their behalf by Her Majesty's Consuls or Vice-Consuls, acting under instructions from the British Embassy at Constantinople.

Yet your Agent is among the last to regret the recent action of his country in Egypt, to a resentment of which these restrictions may, in some measure, be due. He points out that a scheme undoubtedly existed to establish a Mohammedan Caliphate, and tread out all Christian effort; and he declares the common belief of intelligent men resident in the East that not only in Egypt but throughout the Turkish Empire, the cause of liberty and enlightenment has gained by the events of last summer.

So far as the work of the Agency is to be gauged by the circulation of the Scriptures—and let it be always remembered that this is far from being the sole measure of success—there is a decline of 2,727 copies during the past year; but when the stoppage of work in Egypt and its interruption in Cyprus are considered, together with the difficulties of colportage already referred to, it will be seen that a different result could hardly have been expected.

Your Agent thus describes the tyranny of which Seefried has been the victim.

After having been expelled arbitrarily from Uscup, as mentioned in the last Report, he was permitted to return from his exile to Salonica, and settle at Köprili, the nearest important railway station to Uscup. But here he was annoyed by frequent and most untimely examinations of his books, which he was at first required to transport to the Government House, but which afterwards, as a "special favour," were allowed to be examined in his own house. He suffered also from the fanaticism of the Turks of Köprili, one of them having, without the least provocation, struck him a severe blow on the back with a copper vessel, from the effects of which he did not recover for some time. The fanatic collected some dozen others like minded with himself armed with sticks, and attempted further violence, but was prevented by the innkeeper. It is right to add that on this occasion the Cainakam endeavoured to discover the offender and gave Seefried a policeman for his protection. His sales in the region of Köprili were not very successful, partly on account of the poverty of the people, but principally because the territory had been well worked by the American Mission from Manastir.

At length when his exile had been sufficiently prolonged to preserve official dignity, he was permitted, through the kind offices of J. E. Blunt, Esq., C.B. (H.M. Consul-General at Salonica) to return to Uscup, this result being also favoured by the appointment of a new Governor to Uscup. It was thought advisable on his return, that our kind friend the Rev. Mr. Crosbie, who was personally known to the new Governor of Uscup, should introduce Seefried to him, and do all in his power to establish a kindly relation between them: and he succeeded.

Nevertheless, on the night of his return to Uscup with his family by special permit, Seefried was arrested as soon as he left the railway-carriage, and hurried off for examination as a dangerous person. This turned out to be due to the officiousness of an under official at Köprili, who regarded Seefried as a suspicious person, and ignorant that official permission had been given for his return to Uscup, had telegraphed to the authorities there to look after him. The Governor of Uscup was much annoyed at the incident, but the alarm and discouragement which it produced on Seefried and his family were far from trifling. Since then he has worked quietly in and about half