

inated, into what civilizations and barbarisms it has to penetrate.

It is my business in this address to see how far short we have come of the complete fulfilment of this great purpose. My work is the simple one of subtraction. As school-boys we were made familiar with the three elements in a question of that kind,—the minuend or the whole amount, the subtrahend or the sum to be taken away, and the remainder which is the answer to the question. In this case the minuend is stated: viz., the giving of the Scriptures to the whole world. It is not so easy to determine the subtrahend, the work already accomplished, but until that is at least approximately arrived at we can have no idea of the remainder,—the work that is yet to be accomplished. In any case our survey must be of a very general character.

A well-known English writer has said that the destiny of mankind lies mainly in the keeping of three nations—the Anglo-Saxon, which exercises a controlling influence upon about 400,000,000 of people, the Chinese, which includes 500,000,000, and the Russian, which occupies about one half of the great Asiatic-European continent, and already has a population of about 140,000,000. For convenience sake we might adopt this classification, adding to it another factor—viz., the S. European nations—and taking the divisions one by one endeavour to make our estimate of the situation.

I. THE NATIONS OF SOUTHERN EUROPE.

Under this heading we include Turkey, Austria, Greece, Italy and Spain. Here there is in an acute form the question as to the extent to which the people could use the Bible supposing it were in their hands. Illiteracy is a grave factor in the problem. Great masses of people in these lands, especially Austria, Spain and Italy, could make no more use of the Bible than a blind man could of a Titian or a Velasquez. They cannot read. In Spain 68 p.c. of the people and in Portugal 80 p.c. can neither read nor write. But this state of things is gradually changing for the better. The door is being opened for the Word to enter, and it is entering. One remarkable