

spirit of penitence. Legislation is hostile to religion, and there is seen a rare and unusual alliance between the "Papists" and the "Calvinists"—as your agent calls the Roman Catholics and the Reformed—to secure, if possible, a little Bible-reading in the schools.

#### GERMANY (including Switzerland).

Germany sends a report of yet larger sales and yet higher receipts, and these too in the face of wide-spread poverty. The sales rose to 372,000 copies in twenty languages, the receipts to nearly 13,000*l*. These are the highest figures ever reached in a normal year. Nothing has gone to swell this circulation but steady labour; it is the honest result of well-aimed effort, blessed by God. Your Committee pause for a moment upon that sum of 13,000*l*. paid for Scriptures in Germany, to remark that these books were not sold to critics for scientific purposes, but largely to the poorer classes for exhortation, edification, and comfort. One version deserves, even in so brief an abstract, special mention—the sixth edition of Dr. Delitzsch's Hebrew New Testament. Five years ago the age of the translator, and the quality of his work, led your Committee to express its opinion that this eminent scholar had given to his work its finishing touches; but thrice since then he has gone over his translation, and now another edition is "demanded." The demand finds your agent "surprised," and previous editions sold. This fresh providential call to the Jews not to abide still in unbelief is receiving what sounds like an answering movement from Kischeneff, where a purely Jewish community numbering 200 families, under the guidance of a remarkable man of their own kith and kin, have organized themselves for religious purposes, and are reading diligently the Hebrew New Testament. Their position towards the Synagogue on the one side and the Church on the other, as well as their nearer and their farther horizon, will be realized by those who know how to understand their leader's watchword, "The Key of the Holy Land is in the hand of Jesus our brother." Corroborative evidence that this is a real movement reaches us through the colporteurs of the Austrian agency. Your agent, Mr. Watt, all but silent about himself, is present everywhere in the thoughtful, well-planned methods by which he is steadily increasing the efficiency and lessening the expense of his work.

#### AUSTRIA.

The year has been marked in the Austrian agency, as in the German, by a high tide of success. Never before, in an ordinary year, has the total circulation reached 153,000 copies. This advance loses nothing of its significance by careful analysis of its causes. It holds good of the Austrian work proper, with its centre in Vienna. It excites "overflowing gratitude" in the hearts of those who direct the Bohemian work from Prague; it finds expression in similar language as the Hungarian field is surveyed at Pesth. It is true of Transylvania, where "light" is evidently increasing, though the will-o'-the-wisp of spiritualism is betraying the feet of the unwary. It is checked at one or two smaller centres, but the total increase approaches 12,000 copies.

Two remarks must be made to complete the value of this statement: first, that the increase is chiefly in the sale of whole Bibles and Testaments; and secondly, that a large part of it has been a soldiers' victory, and is due to the colporteurs. Any epitome of the work done in the Austrian agency would be misleading, as well as incomplete, if it did not allow the background of the picture to show behind these achievements. It is a background of poverty, of obstructive legislation, of fierce opposition on the part of ill-taught eccle-