

wonderful beauty of the Bible to you who have had the happiness to be born and educated among the evangelical influences of Christian England. But it may be less presumptuous to say a few words from my personal knowledge about the part which the British and Foreign Bible Society has had in the religious awakening of the Servian race.

"Some fifteen to eighteen years ago, the Civil and Church authorities in Servia put many obstacles in the way of the Bible colporteurs. But now, by patience, prudence, and perseverance, and above all by God's blessing, the Bible Society has overcome all these difficulties. The Bible colporteurs move at present freely in Servia, and can only praise the friendliness with which they are regarded by priests and people, and the readiness with which civil authorities give them assistance when required. To-day, even the most bigoted and jealous of Greek Churchmen are compelled to confess that the Bible Society does *not* seek to convert us to any special Protestant creed, but seeks only to place in the hands of our people the Word of God in the common tongue, so that he who reads it may, by God's Almighty grace, become a new man in Christ Jesus.

"Whilst fulfilling for some time the duties of Minister of Public Worship and National Education, I had often opportunities to hear priests and teachers speak thankfully of the translation of the Bible. During the war with Turkey I had occasion to see many of the Bosnian refugees and their priests, and I can tell you that they expressed always the greatest joy when presented with copies of the Bible. I shall never forget how deeply I was impressed when, visiting a dying artillery captain, I found another young officer reading to him the Bible. It was then a surprising sight in Servia, but I hope and trust it will be henceforth one so common as to cause no surprise. Nor shall I ever forget the expression of happiness and gratitude with which a simple man once said to me that, while in prison for conscience sake, he had read one of the Bibles which my wife had presented for the use of the convicts.

THE NAZARENES.

"The most conclusive proof, in my opinion, that the Bible has been spread, and that it is being read among the Servians, is the spread, during the last ten or twelve years, of the religious sect of Nazarenes among the Servians in Hungary. The Church authorities did everything to bring them back to the Greek Church. The Archbishop of Belgrade sent some of his ablest priests to prove to them that they were in error. A public discussion was appointed. The Nazarene peasants appeared with their Bibles in their hands, and the report says that the Archbishop's agents were perfectly confounded with the evidence which these simple men produced from the Bible in support of their tenets. The civil authorities, to whom the Nazarenes are obnoxious, because of their refusal to serve as soldiers, are unanimous in praising their honesty, loyalty, and earnest Christianity. Some of them have been condemned to death for disobeying orders of the military authority to go to fight. The death penalty has been commuted to twenty years' imprisonment with hard labour. I have had occasion to visit them several times; and, when leaving them, I have always thanked God that they are Servians who—whilst wearing chains for conscience sake—rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory. These Nazarene prisoners diligently read the Bible, and on all occasions loudly proclaim that their chains are easy, and that the darkness of their prison is light, whilst they have the Bible for companion and Jesus for their Comforter.

THE SERVIAN TRANSLATION.

"I may mention one more circumstance which will show with what care and thoroughness the Bible Society does its work. The two men who translated the Old and the New Testament into Servian are acknowledged by us to be our first masters of language and style. Our Servian literature is very