

the great languages of the world not provided with them. This need, by God's gracious help, has been accomplished. There is to-day no known great language that has not the whole Bible translated into it. It is the smaller languages which have still to be dealt with, and their name is legion. During the past year several have for the first time become the messengers of the Gospel of Christ. At present the most important duty of the editorial department consists in revision. For the original translations the Society was, in many instances, indebted to missionaries, who labored under the serious disadvantage of having to express themselves in an alien tongue with which they were but imperfectly acquainted. When defects and errors were brought to light, and the languages became better understood, revision was determined upon—for the committee have ever recognised the obligation of giving as perfect a transcript of the "Holy Oracles" as practicable. Revisions are now going forward in many of the great languages of India, China, and elsewhere. The task is no light one. Some revisions have occupied several years, and been made at an expense of several thousand pounds. There are as many as one hundred languages and dialects in which to-day either translation or revision is proceeding.

The employment of numerous and zealous colporteurs to circulate the Scriptures in the numerous countries of Europe, Asia, Polynesia, Africa, and America, where the Society work has been carried on with unabated energy and success. 429 Bible women have in Asia and Africa sent God's Word to 26,560 native women, and 1,549 of their scholars were last year enabled to read the Bible for themselves. These agents have circulated 15,263 Bibles and Testaments last year. Ample evidence is given in their reports of the high spiritual value of their work. Let one instance of a colporteur's work lead us to form some adequate idea of the way God is blessing the circulation by the Bible Society of that work which makes men wise to salvation through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. "In the autumn of 1893 a colporteur was climbing the woody hills of Galicia. He found in one of the huts a young forester whose leg had been crushed by the falling of a tree, and amputated, probably with the rude surgery of the nearest village. He was in mental as well as in bodily agony. It is an easy thing for youth, in the prime of earliest manhood, in the fulness of strength, in the dawn of ambition and love, to turn from them all and enter the shadowy house of pain? The kind stranger spoke to him of the only source of comfort, and read with him some of the words of Divine peace. But the sympathy seemed to have come too soon; the wound was too recent; and though at