

ALBANIA.—After an interval of twelve years your Agent re-visited this part of his field during the summer. Joannina had risen from the ashes of the great fire an European city. Here he found education advancing and widening, here also the upward movement was shared to the full by the Jew. Dr. Thomson speaks of the Jewish school-rooms as "crowded." He had more intercourse with them than with any others, "scarcely a day passing without some one coming to pay a friendly visit or to propose a hard question." Colportage had been uninterrupted, although the men had been changed. Pilo laboured during the first half-year, Sevastides during the last. A third colporteur had been tried and found wanting. Both Pilo and Sevastides are men of most valuable qualities, admirably adapted for their work. At Berat Pilo maintained with success a friendly argument with the Greek Archbishop, who attempted to prove from the case of Philip and the Eunuch that the Bible alone was insufficient. It is interesting to find a Greek prelate now urging the same objection that an English prelate thought so strong in the Bible Society's early days; but it is a proof either of the strength of the colporteur or the weakness of the argument that he did in a single sentence what it once was thought to need a whole pamphlet to set out, viz., that the reading of the Scriptures predisposes men to receive the teaching of the Church when that teaching provides the true answers to the anxiety which leads men now, as it led them of old, to search the Scriptures.

The sales of Sevastides, although only half of those of Pilo, are a more correct index of the general condition of Albania, for they were effected, not in large numbers in large towns like Joannina, but piecemeal all over the district.

His impression was that the people were living in the deepest spiritual ignorance, blind followers of the blind.

IONIA AND THE ISLANDS.

Colporteur Darom, whose good work during ten years has proved him to be a very valuable man, left the Society's service, with Dr. Thomson's regretful acquiescence, to become an evangelist under Mr. Spence, where no doubt he will still prove himself a good and useful man. His place has been taken by Moschobakes, who had held office under Government in the Isle of Patmos, and who had come to know the truth by the help of another of your colporteurs, Misaelides. The reports of these colporteurs abound with refreshing details. The following instance of the interest felt by a Greek woman in Chios in the Bible is noticeable, and Darom's remark, as he finishes the story, throws a sad light upon it:—

Darom relates that as he was offering his books in the village of Malens, in Chios, a woman requested to see them, and asked what they were. "They are the Word of God," said Darom, "and show us how we may enter His kingdom," putting, as he spoke, a Bible into her hands. The woman sat down on a stone, and read with great interest for about a quarter of an hour. "Oh," said she, "what a delightful book! I have read three chapters, and wish greatly to purchase it; but I! I've not the money." With these words she went off for a while, but soon returned with the price, which she had borrowed from a neighbour. Her husband, she said, could not read; but she hoped that on hearing her read the book, he would be willing to repay the money she had borrowed. Darom adds that this was the first and only instance in which he found a Greek female interested in the Word of God.

The colporteur Klonares, who has laboured in Crete during three-quarters of the year, has met with very encouraging success. His first step was bold and judicious. On arriving at Canea, the capital, he took copies of the newly-translated Turkish version, and exhibited them to the presidents of the various tribunals. This step, improved upon by his wise use of the op-