

memorable likewise in regard to the amazing and unprecedented dissemination of the Scriptures. It is not merely that the area of action has enlarged in its dimensions, but the Word of God has gone forth on a scale greatly surpassing all former experience. Nor is this impulse to be traced solely to those operations which were special to the seasons and the lands of war. It can be traced in other countries as well as in France and in Germany. Denmark, Sweden, Russia, Austria, Italy, Turkey, have all put forth increased demands for the Bible; and did the resources of the Society admit of the employment of a greatly increased agency, the work could be developed in many regions far beyond its present proportions. The Committee do not wish to draw too large and unqualified an inference from the enormous issues of the year, as though the forces of error and superstition were rapidly retreating before the advancing light and victorious majesty of Inspired Truth; but it is surely a most hopeful circumstance, for which praise and thanksgiving must be rendered to God, that nearly four millions of copies of the Bible, in whole or in part, have been circulated during the year; and this simple fact, without any coloring or exaggeration, may be accepted as affording some evidence, however slight, that prejudices are abating—that hearts are yearning for the knowledge of God's Will—and that, in some directions at least, men's minds are opening to religious impression and investigation. As may be supposed, the year has proved one of anxiety and great responsibility."

Time forbids, in a Report like this, to follow the Parent Society's Report over the various sections of the globe. We shall select a few countries, and, as usual, begin with

FRANCE.—During the war, a balloon despatch announced the death of the long-tried and faithful agent of the Society in France, M. de Pressensé, who for thirty-seven years regarded the position he held as the privilege and honor of his life. But in this, as in other cases,