

of God's Word and many have died resting peacefully on that Saviour revealed. What a testimony to the power of God's grace and what a triumph of Missionary labor. Nive or Savage Island has become the centre of light in the group, and this is the result of the Word of God in the hands of a few simple minded, prayerful and believing men. In 1849, a Samoan Teacher was received at one of the villages and from that year dates the commencement of God's work on the island. He was not a learned man but emphatically a man of the book. His great central truths he made known and lived in accordance with its precepts. A few years of patient, trustful, prayerful work were followed by years of thankful harvest, so that ten years after his landing the whole island was under religious instruction and the first teacher's labors were shared by four others. Now began the prayer for more light, "Lord send us a Missionary who may teach us more fully of thy truth" became the cry of all Nive. In 1861, the first English Missionary, Rev. Mr. Lawes and wife landed on the island. He felt from the first day of his residence that if the people's faith was to be established on a firm basis and their spiritual growth to become strong and vigorous, they must have the Word of God, at least the New Testament in their own language. For 12 years he labored at the work of translating, and through the help of a Samoan Missionary who possessed some knowledge of the Samoan Island dialect, the translation of the New Testament and Book of Psalms has been effected. Now the New Testament is in every house on the island and in every house are those who can read its blessed truths. But it is not merely by reading it that the Savage Islanders show their appreciation of the Sacred Volume but by paying for it and by circulating it to others. During the last 10 years they have paid upwards of £500 to the Bible Society for the Testament and portions printed in Sydney, and raised £2,300 as contributions to the Missionary Society, that heathen islands beyond may enjoy with them the blessings of the Gospel through the teaching of God's own Word of life and peace. This most interesting account fully shows the benefit of Missionary agency and the great good accomplished through the instrumentality of the labors of the Parent Society; and there is scarcely a Missionary Society of any note in operation that is not indebted to this valuable Society for aid in its translations and helping in its work. Through this last year there has been quite a number of new translations and revisions made. But it is not our intention to travel further over the wide field embraced within the sphere of the Society's labors. Suffice to say that in France, the country we commonly commenced with, the circulation of the Scriptures is increasing, though the number sold does not reach that given during the previous year of the war. Nevertheless, France is getting the Bible, hitherto its great want, and what will imbue it with the principles of sound