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And as Hon. Foreign Members—Rev. Gustav Jensen, of Christiania; Rev. L. Dahle, of Stavanger; Rev. Jens Killengreen, of Tromsø; Herr C. J. Dreyer, of Tromsø; Rev. K. Eckhoff, of Christiania; Rev. Bishop Schereschewsky, formerly of Peking; Rev. Dr. Scranton, of Seoul; and Herr Carl Grondahl, of Christiania.

VI.—REVIEW OF THE FIELD.

The latest year of the Bible Society's history has been, in some important respects, a peculiarly interesting one: and, in respects even more important, it has proved peculiarly pleasant. In their natural cycle, and for reasons which the meteorologist cannot always explain, some seasons are of a prevalent gloom, and wear out their course under a sky which never quite loses its shadow or fully enjoys its sun. Others are more fortunate. The summer is early, and it is long, and the winter is briefer than usual. There is a sense of pleasure in the air: life seems to forget some at least of its cares; and though there is always enough to remind us both of labour and sorrow, the year, when it is over, is remembered as one of unusual serenity and enjoyment.

To this latter and happier class—to pass from external to spiritual things—the year just over may be said to belong. There have been dark days in its course: and as one reviews it there is not a little to regret. But there has been a distinct, if a hardly definable, brightness in its sky, and a special sense of vitality in its air. From almost every part of the field the reports are, in varying degrees, encouraging. It is not only that the circulation has been very generally advancing, although the advance has been in many instances very notable, and that a large amount of important work has been done. There has indeed been much done; but there is something beyond these details, pleasant as they are. There is a certain vitality in narrative after narrative, a consciousness of progress, a hope of better things not distant—like that peculiar sense of the approach of morning after night, or of spring after a prolonged winter. Prejudices against Christian work, which have lasted for ages, seem in case after case to be relaxing: the very bitterness of opposition explains itself in the direction of encouragement, and as page after page of the record is turned, the sense is correspondingly deepened of the certainty of the progress which is being made, and of the incalculable value of the work which is being done.

It is one characteristic of a year thus generally pleasant that it has been in a special sense one of deputations—friendly embassies from the home centre to several of the most important parts of the field, and rich in unusually interesting and important results. In the spring Mr. Paull was commissioned to visit Algeria: the significance of his journey lies very much in the fact that it was directed to the great continent so rapidly opening up, not only to a new political but to a new Christian future; and that, in consequence of this visit, from the northern French colony, and directed by a Christian Frenchman, the hands of Bible influence are being stretched, as they have not been before, to meet those extended to them from the south. Later in the year Mr. Finch was deputed to Norway: and the peculiar interest of his journey to the Society's warm-hearted friends in the north consists in the arrangements then made, not for the withdrawal of old and faithful Agencies, but for their attaining the honour of an independent position in their own land, and side by side with the other Reformation countries which are one after another accepting the honour and the responsibilities of separate existence. The visit of Mr. Sharp and Mr. Victor Buxton to the Turkish Agency, joined as they were by Mr. Weakley and Dr. Thomson, had an even higher importance. A

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