

Church, especially in Greece itself. But since the war a large area of the Turkish Empire has ceased to be under the direct rule of the Porte, and has passed permanently from the Crescent to the Cross. And then as to the Greek Church, especially in the Greek kingdom, though it has not repented of its hostility to the circulation of the Vernacular Greek Scriptures, it has consented to permit the use of the New Testament in the sacred language itself in all the schools of the land; and if the prosperous and educated Greeks at home and abroad would exert their influence, your Agent thinks it would go far to wipe away from Christian Greeks the reproach which cannot be laid to the charge even of the Turks, that they deny to their own children the sacred book of their religion in the speech understood of the people.

Dr. Thomson's description of the conditions amidst which the work was carried on includes a terrible variety of evils; Bulgarians flying from Turks, Turks flying from Bulgarians, agriculture suspended, commerce paralysed, taxation grinding, money scarce, coinage debased, brigands numerous and daring, and famine and pestilence just held at bay by the money and the energy and the Christian devotion of the country, which sends forth the Scriptures.

CONSTANTINOPLE.—The journals of the colporteurs offer many illustrations of the character of colportage in this district. Sevastides entered a Greek school at Therapia to show his books, and was received by the teacher with a blow on the face, while a priest stood by and tauntingly desired him to turn the other cheek. On another occasion he was handed over to the police for having sold a Greek Bible to a baker who had denounced the book as seditious. On examination he was acquitted. Pleasanter experiences than these with Greeks are two interviews with Turks. Having sold four Gospels to educated men in the court of a mosque, they asked him, "Why do you sell these books so cheap?" "For the same reason," says he "as Moslems erect fountains; we believe it is for the glory of God and the good of our fellow men." Visiting the Island of Prinkipo, near Constantinople, he waited on the Governor and showed his books. After a little conversation the latter asked him, "What is the meaning of this gigantic attack upon the religion of your neighbours?" Sevastides replied, "The Lord's own command, Go ye therefore and teach all nations," and added in the language of St. Paul, "I am debtor to the Greeks and to the Barbarians, both to the wise and the unwise," and finding the Governor willing to listen, he continued to read the whole of the chapter.

ROUMELIA, &c.—In this district the colporteur, Mr. Jacob Klundt, has met with cheering success. He has had trials and troubles, but comfort and deliverances too. Family affliction in the loss of a child, personal affliction in the shape of arrest by the Turks, and an unusual amount of perils of robbers and murderers were a lot of this good man. He traversed his district three times in the course of the year. He found in many places a great desire for Slavonic Scriptures for use in schools, and as a rule the teachers of the schools were friendly to his work. His happiest hours were spent with the Bulgarians scattered amongst their southern neighbours. Of these he speaks with much hopefulness, and he found them alive to the benefits which the Bible Society had conferred upon them. The teacher in Jeeb said: 'Our people have no idea of the immense blessing conferred on them by the Bible Society. How many have been stirred up to a taste for reading and improving their time by the purchase of a cheap book.' In P—— a municipal officer said, 'I don't know how to express our thanks to the Bible Society. If I should use a figure, I should say, were we as tall as to reach the clouds, we should bow ourselves to the earth, and kiss the feet of those who bring us the Word of God.' And once more a plain man, also in P——, said, 'Thousand thanks to those who bring us the sweet Word of God in our mother-tongue that we can read and understand it, and so cheap that we can buy it.'"