

"I knocked at his door ; but as no one answered I entered. Perceiving that the man was both deaf and dumb I put a Bible into his hand and pointed to the title page. As I could not understand his signs, he took up a slate at his side and wrote on it 'God cannot help me.' I wrote in reply, 'His blessing alone can make us happy.' 'But what should I go to church for? I suffer hunger and have not enough to eat.' This was the next question, to which I answered : 'To get food for your undying soul.' Then followed this dialogue in writing.

"SHOEMAKER.—My family would get no benefit from that."

"COLPORTEUR.—The Lord cares for His own."

"SHOEMAKER.—But I cannot hear."

"COLPORTEUR.—Every Sunday morning there is a service for the deaf and dumb at Pastor L——'s church....."

"SHOEMAKER.—You're a clever parson."

"COLPORTEUR.—I am nothing but a working man like yourself ; but I have found my Saviour."

"SHOEMAKER.—But you speak for money."

"COLPORTEUR.—No, the love of Christ constrains me to try and lead to Him those who do not know Him. There is time now to repent, but there may not be later on. Here is the Bible, which shows the way of salvation."

"SHOEMAKER.—But I am a Roman Catholic."

"COLPORTEUR.—Well, but salvation is for Roman Catholics too, only through Christ alone."

"SHOEMAKER.—When we die it's all over with us.

[Here I gave him part of 1 Cor. xv. to read.]

"SHOEMAKER.—But I have to work on Sundays, and can't be going to church.

"COLPORTEUR.—Remember the Sabbath to keep it holy."

He quite approved of Sunday being a day of rest, and I got him to read part of the Sermon on the Mount. Before leaving I gave him a Portion, for which he thanked me heartily, promising to read it diligently.

This is a fair specimen of the kind of work which is being done throughout Germany by the colporteurs, of whom Mr. James Watt, your new Agent for this field, says :—

"These faithful and hard-working men are the rank and file of our army. They are also our outposts and skirmishers. It is they who keep touch with the main body of the enemy, and are more roughly used in the fight. Deprived of the sympathies of home, obliged to be content with humble quarters and often with wretched food, exposed to the inclemencies of every season and to the still more trying storms of ridicule and abuse, the colporteur must not only possess a stout heart and iron frame, but be a man of faith, one who walks with God. All honour to such men ! let us support them with our sympathy and prayers.

Your Agent possesses the advantage of combining loyalty to the traditions of the Society with a quick sense of the requirements of changing circumstances.

No one could enter upon so large an undertaking as the charge of the German-Swiss Agency without finding a large part of his time engrossed at first by the more secular duties of the post. It is therefore a gratification to the Committee to find that Mr. Watt shows that he has in no degree lost sight of the high aim of the Society.

"The British and Foreign Bible Society takes rank among the greatest of missionary enterprises. Take away the spiritual aspects of its work, and you deprive it of its only reason for existence. Its colporteurs, simple, pious men, burning with zeal for the cause of Christ, if not so in name and mode of work, are evangelists in fact, who assiduously embrace every opportunity, when offering their books, to sow the seed of Divine truth. Their auditors are frequently the forlorn and the outcast, those who flee contact with the city missionary and who will not approach the pastor or give him a hearing.