

Foreign Missions, under our direction. Each of these working independently, having met with some measure of success in selling Bibles, has been thought worthy of special notice in the Roman Catholic organs within a few weeks. It is necessary to premise that these colporteurs carry a large stock of Roman Catholic Bibles (the Van Ess translation), and that the tracts and books which our two agents have are of a decidedly Christian, but not distinctively Protestant character, and are never controversial. On October 5th appeared the following communication in the *Tiroler Stimme*, the most widely circulated and influential Roman Catholic paper in Tyrol. It is written from a village in the Lower Inn valley:

"From bedbugs, gadflies, and fleas we are now tolerably free. But in their place is pricking us an insect of larger size and more poisonous species. For some time past, a Bible peddler has been buzzing around in our neighbourhood, and stinging, at every convenient opportunity, our sensitive flesh. There are some people who have not often the privilege of seeing this bearded Bible seller and tract distributor, and may be overcome by his persistence. The priests are especially among these favoured ones. The Bibles—Old and New Testaments in one volume—are from Leander Van Ess, and naturally without recognition. [The ignorant priests don't seem to know that the Van Ess Bible is Catholic.] The tracts which he generally distributes, gives away—in fact, sows broadcast—are often of a poisonous character. [For instance, the tract of 'The Duty of General Bible Reading,' by the same Catholic Van Ess.] Whoever would guard himself against the flattering phrases of this urgent little man must show him the door *somewhat significantly* at the outset, otherwise he may be under the necessity of doing it several times."

At about the same time Mr. Stierti, our other colporteur in Vorarlburg, received the following notice in the Roman Catholic paper of that district.

"We are informed that a colporteur is going about the country with Bibles and Protestant pietistic tracts. The former are sold at a merely nominal price, and the latter the same as given away. We call the attention of Catholics to the fact. It will be most advisable to show the same the door. He is said to be very importunate, and in possession of a permission from the government of Tyrol. This does not oblige any one, however, to purchase Bibles which have not been approved."

On October 7th, again the *Tiroler Stimme* thus alluded to Mr. Rauch, the colporteur of the Bible Society, apparently confounding him with one of ours before alluded to:

"Give attention! I have often read about it in the *Stimme*, that colporteurs were armed with Protestant tracts, but did not suppose that they would stray into our region. But, in fact such a tempter [devil] was on the 21st at St. Vigil, in Ennburg, and disposed of many Italian and German copies of these forbidden wares. There was a pretended Gospel of Matthew, and the New Testament with Psalms, in connection with other [Protestant] tracts. The people had to be warned against it in the church, and were required without delay to bring those forbidden and destructive books to us, or to destroy them. Several have been already produced. We shall use them as waste paper on behalf of the Boys' Seminary in Brixem."

In connection with these facts, I will state that our colporteur in Bregenz (Vorarlburg) has just been brought before the court and fined 25 florins (\$12 50) for selling Bibles. His permission from the government only allows him to take subscriptions, and afterward to deliver the books. It seems, in his haste to dispose of Bibles, he did not use the ordinary subscription blank with which we supplied him.

In Prag, within two weeks, a young man, employed by our brethren there, got permission from the janitor to visit the hospital, talk with the patients, and distribute religious reading. He met a priest in the hospital who forbade his doing it, and he at once desisted. He was, however, complained of—although he gave away nothing but Gospel portions—and cited before the chief of police to answer. He was treated with great roughness, threatened