

*tuitous distribution of the New Testament is being abandoned*—in some missions it has been for years entirely given up ; and, instead, the Jews zealously seek after and buy the New Testament by thousands. In the year that it was my privilege to join the London Jews Society's Mission in Roumania, 2,942 New Testaments, in whole or in part, were sold to Jews in this one station only ; and, besides these, there were large numbers sold by the active Colporteurs of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

"A Jew, who had bought an entire copy of the Bible, expressed himself thus with regard to the New Testament : 'Sublimar and more solemn lessons are nowhere to be met with. They are just fit to seize with power the whole of one's heart, so that it is almost impossible to withstand the conviction that Jesus is the Messiah.' 'Let me feel the Book,' said a blindman, putting it to his lips and kissing it. 'This is God's Book. It is the truth. God bless the missionaries who have come here to do us good.' 'There I find my comfort,' said a sick boy, lying upon his bed. 'That is the source of my peace and hope.' A poor widow, when asked if she would like to read the New Testament, answered, 'Read it ! Who would not read such heavenly words, which are so comforting to a widow's heart ?' A Jewish teacher in ill health frequently confessed that it was entirely owing to his perfect belief in the Old and New Testaments that he could bear, with patience and humble submission to his Lord's will, the cross which He was pleased to put upon his shoulders. When the missionary saw him for the last time upon his deathbed, he said, 'You know my mind ; you know what has been my strength and support through life ; you know what I believe, and through faith in whom I know I shall be saved.' A poor Jew, to whom the missionary had lent a copy of the New Testament to read, grasped it, saying, 'That Book, sir—that Book has brought peace to my wroubled soul.' 'I have read the New Testament,' said a Jew, in the presence of a Rabbi, 'and there is not a more interesting Book.' 'You are known as a sinner in Israel,' growled the Rabbi, 'and we expect you will soon be baptized.'

"Nor are the Rabbis the last to feel the influence of this holy Book. One of these masters in Israel showed the missionary his well-used New Testament, and assured him that he used for his sermons many of the sayings of Jesus and His apostles. Another teacher was so influenced by the diligent reading of the New Testament, that it gave a certain tone and style to his preaching in the synagogue. His congregation, after listening to him for a time, suspected him of Christianity ; and, as he persisted in the same manner, they dismissed him from his office. Before entering upon a new appointment, he came to take leave of the missionary, and said, 'Be assured, I am resolved to continue the study of the New Testament, and I hope it will bring me to the conclusion of embracing Christianity.'

"With joy, therefore, let us draw water out of the wells of salvation. But, whilst we drink freely, do not let us forget through what channel we have received it. As the custodian of the Holy Scriptures, God chose one nation—the Jews. To them were committed the oracles of God. Faithfully they kept and guarded the written Word, and faithfully they delivered it to us ; but to themselves for the most part this source of light and blessing has become as a sealed Book. Not only is the veil upon their hearts when Moses and the Prophets are read, but Rabbism has deprived the Jewish people of the Old Testament as Romanism has deprived Papists of the Bible. In the place of it the Rabbis have put their traditions, the oral Law, which has all but superseded the study of the Word of God. Let us, then, give back to the Jew his own Bible, and God's Word will not return unto Him void."

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