

The system of Colportage was introduced, and almost universally hailed with cordial approbation by Christians of all denominations, and has been pursued with increasing usefulness and success. The present number of Colporteurs is about one hundred and fifty. The annual sales number millions of publications. Many are sold to the poor at reduced rates, donations being given for the purpose. Increased attention is now given to the wants of large towns, where the Lord's Day is spent in idleness and sin, and where, if working-men read at all, it is the Sunday newspaper or pernicious periodical. Colporteurs from their own class gain access to them and to the public houses, disposing of attractive publications and periodicals to them."

It is very gratifying to find what may be considered a general and national support is being more and more extended to this good work by the nobility, the landed proprietors, the bankers, merchants, manufacturers, and tradesmen of Scotland. The Committee embraces the names of men of position, influence, and piety, who, as representatives of a Catholic constituency, do their work in the spirit of loving brotherhood and earnest zeal.

The Divines of the Puritan age undoubtedly recognized the vast importance of diffusing the Holy Scriptures and subordinate religious literature. Of Baxter's call, 20,000 copies were sold within twelve months after its publication; and of Alleine's Alarm, 70,000 copies within three years. These were but two of thousands of publications, from folio to 24mo., that then swarmed from the Puritan press. Sibles' Bruised Reed, purchased at the door of his father, was largely the means of Baxter's conversion. Well, therefore, might Baxter say, 'I would rather be the author of books to be carried on peddlers' packs to poor men's doors, than of books to stand in golden libraries.' In the same age the works of Bunyan, Baxter, Flavel, and especially of Cotton and the Erskines, were scattered widely over the lowland cities of Scotland.

COLPORTAGE IN IRELAND.

aid and encouraged by the large blessing attending Book Agency and Colportage in Scotland, the Irish Bible and Colportage Society was formed seven years ago, whose results have far excelled the expectations of its founders. In 1859 there were but two book agents; in 1865 there were 240, who disposed of 358,815 publications. Colportage has been a principal agency in this extension of good books and periodicals. There are now forty-four Colporteurs, and their labors are incessant and success gladdening."

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