

watched with eagerness and delight; and the Committee have constantly expressed the opinion, and would again reiterate it, that few books issued from the press contain details of greater interest to the general reader, the philanthropist, or the christian, than the too-often neglected volumes of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

To their last volume—and one of the most interesting of the series—the Report for 1864, they would now direct your attention, before proceeding to a summary of their own labors during the past year.

The first and most important scene of the Society's operations is FRANCE.

Of the work in this country the parent Committee speak most encouragingly, and state that in connexion with it there are two points which seem to call for special notice, for the purpose of ascribing praise to Him who has the hearts of all in his hands, and who turneth them whithersoever he wills. The first is, that the work during the past year has met with no opposition on the part of the authorities. In all cases the needful authorization to the Colporteurs has been granted with such readiness as to induce the hope that those in power may, ere long, recognize the Bible as the only sure foundation of morality, and the only true source of loyalty! The next is that no hindrance has arisen from those classes for whose more immediate benefit the Colporteur plies his ceaseless toil; on the contrary, there is being diffused throughout the country such a yearning after religious liberty, that any publication or any course of action that gives prominence to the leading truths of Christianity, or serves to develop the great principles which these truths enforce, is welcomed by the people as helping forward that consummation which they hope one day to reach.

The reports and statements of the Society's well-tried agents