

of the priests ; but they know and feel that man cannot live without religion. This explains the crowded audiences wherever *conférences* are announced by Protestant pastors or laymen. The mairies and theatres are opened at once in places where the Gospel has never been heard, for men who wish to speak of the love of Jesus Christ to sinners. This may well be called 'a sign of the times.'

The meetings with which the name of our countryman, the Rev. R. W. McAll, is honourably associated, continue to spread, not only in Paris but in the provinces. Your Committee have had the pleasure during the year, of meeting Mr. McAll and making a further grant in aid of his Bible classes ; and M. Monod (the Society's agent for France) has found it expedient to detach colporteurs for the purpose of following up the impressions made at the evangelistic meetings.

"Roman Catholic working people who hear for the first time the pure Gospel are often touched, and ready to procure a Bible or Testament while they are still under the impression of what they have heard, but they will never apply for it to a Protestant pastor, or even to a bookseller, and perhaps on the following day they will be less disposed to make a sacrifice for such a book. But if they see one of their own class attending the meetings with his colporteur bag, then they are likely at once to get a book."

But the way is often prepared for such gatherings by small Protestant churches which are themselves the outcome of the labours of your colporteurs. Testimony to this is furnished in a letter addressed to your Agent last December by a pastor in the Jura—

"Having no occasion to write to you for the last two years, I have not mentioned our missionary stations of S—— and of C——, both of which owe their existence to the passage through our district of your excellent colporteur Terrier. They are chiefly intended for the scattered Protestants, but a certain number of Roman Catholics who have received from M. Terrier some good words, together with the Scriptures, attend our services in both places. We had yesterday above fifty Roman Catholics present, and one half of the children gathered around the Christmas-tree were Roman Catholics. I am personally much indebted to M. Terrier for the large share he has had in the establishment of these services."

Tourn's work on board the ships at Marseilles is most interesting. The sailors who give him least encouragement are the Greeks and Italians, whereas the Norwegians, "as soon as he appears on deck and they see the Bible, take off their caps and remain uncovered while he speaks to them."

"Three years ago Tourn had sold a Bible to a Norwegian sailor, who had not at hand the necessary sum to pay for it. 'Never mind,' said Tourn, 'take it and when I come again on Saturday you can pay me.' But when Saturday came the sailor had embarked on another vessel, and was gone. Tourn took the loss upon himself, and thought no more about it, when, a few days ago, as he was walking along the quays, he felt a heavy hand on his shoulder. He turned back and saw a tall sailor, who said, with a pleasant smile, 'Are you not Mr. Tourn who used to sell Bibles on board the ships?' 'I am.' 'Do you not remember selling a Bible to a sailor who left without paying for it?' 'Yes, I do.' Then the poor man related in touching words what he had gone through since that time, and how that the Bible had been *sa grande consolatrice* during a terrible illness at St. Thomas, and how often he had thought with regret that he had left without paying for it. He did so on the spot, and, says Tourn, 'I never saw a man happier for having discharged a duty.'"

Tourn has taken a prominent part in a revival among the sailors ; and he and his wife have given such evidence of high Christian character that your Committee have entrusted them with the care of a new dépôt opened in the