

by which I was employed. "Indeed, if that is the case," exclaimed the captain, "I, too, will buy a Bible of you." He thereupon took up one of the large Bibles of Ostervald, which he placed under his arm, paid the price, and went away, evidently pleased with his purchase.

The colporteur adds, "I could relate a number of equally gratifying occurrences, all proving the valuable assistance which is rendered us by our good friends the officers."

Our colporteur who is employed in the very important camp of C—, recently sent me the following details:—

"Notwithstanding the severe order of the General, which forbids the entrance into the camp of any civilian, be he who he may, he has made an *exception in my favour*. This being so, I went the other day to the colonel of the — regiment of the line, to ask his permission to go into the tent frequented by the officers to take coffee and to smoke, for the purpose of offering my Bibles to them. The colonel very graciously granted my request, and I have had reason to bless the Lord for it, for after a long conversation with the gentlemen who were in the tent, which conversation was entirely about the Scriptures, and during which all of them treated me with an extraordinary amount of amiability and friendliness, the greater part of them bought a bible, at the same time giving expression to their admiration of the work carried on by the Bible Society."

I may add, that the colporteur in the camp of C— assures me, and the same is done by the Colporteur in the camp of S—, that it is truly delightful to watch the gratifying progress which the distribution of the Word of God is making among the numerous soldiers, both officers and privates, with whom they come in contact.

Many of the soldiers are very imperfect readers, and the colporteurs frequently devote the evening to their instruction, in a mode which leads the mind direct to the truths of the Scripture:—

"I will here simply mention a very interesting peculiarity of the work now carrying on by those of our colporteurs, who are specially entrusted with the dissemination of the Scriptures among the men in the French army. Those of our friends who concentrate their efforts on the the three or four camps in which our various regiments are successively stationed for a longer or shorter period of time, have hit upon the excellent and Christian idea, after having spent the whole of the day with their wallet or their backs, in visiting the soldiers in their tents, of inviting to their lodgings in the immediate vicinity of the camps, those who may be unable to read (the number of whom among the recruits from the country districts is indeed very considerable), and are desirous of being taught. These invitations have been so eagerly accepted, that every evening our friends are surrounded by thirty, forty and at times even fifty pupils, engaged in spelling the verses of the New Testament, the only reading book which is used. These exercises are frequently interrupted by a familiar but earnest explanation by the presiding teacher of some verse or other which has been previously spelled through, and which happens to contain some fundamental truth or some practical lesson. So far from being offended or repulsed by such an exceptional method of instruction, the greater number of the pupils evidently like it, and are constantly giving evidence of their wish to become more thoroughly acquainted with matters relating to religion, by accompanying their amateur school-master on the Sunday, to the Protestant services which are held in the neighbourhood of the camps. And to this I would at once add, that more significant and infinitely more gladdening results have flowed from these meetings, which may be suitably designated Bible meetings, and they have been made the means of conversion to some of those who have attended them. The number of these, I admit, is not very large; but it is large enough, nevertheless, to assure us that the blessing of the Lord will rest with still greater abundance on the humble efforts to which He has already been pleased to vouchsafe so much encouragement."