

"But I soon found out still harder penances, which I practised with more zeal, without, however, finding peace for my soul. I persistently felt that I was not pardoned, until I determined to retire into a convent and become a monk. I had no doubt that these men leaving the world to practice penance became real saints; but after having spent about two years in the convent under the monks' costume, in that convent which I thought the devil could never enter, I found him sooner than anywhere else, and even stronger than elsewhere. In the library of the convent I found a New Testament, and afterwards I said to myself,—'This is really the life of Jesus Christ; these are His doctrines and His teachings, and the teaching of His Apostles. Why are they kept hidden? Why do they say the mass is a sacrifice when Jesus Christ has not said it; that there are seven sacraments, when Jesus Christ does not mention them?'

"Leaving the convent, I was forced to break the promise I had given to remain a teacher for ten years, and as a consequence had to become a soldier. Being in the army I made the acquaintance of M. Nogaret, pastor at Bayonne. That faithful and zealous minister instructed me in the Gospel of Christ, and it was when he had called my attention to such passages as John iii. 14-18, 'God so loved the world' . . . and when, being alone, I reflected seriously, that I understood at last; my eyes were opened, and I exclaimed, 'O now I am no more in need of masses, pilgrimages, relics. What a fool I have been, wanting to save myself by my pretended good works! What a fool not to have understood and felt ere this that when I was nothing but a great sinner, Christ died to save me!'

"From that time my desire has been, and still is, to tell the good news to those who do not know them, to spread the Word of God, to testify for my Saviour and for the Gospel. Not that I am now free from sin or from temptation: my heart still inclines towards the world's vanities. The one tells me,—'You must not become a colporteur; you will not earn much, and you will have much trouble; come with me, and I will find you a situation where you will have good wages and be quiet.' Another offers a good situation in a Christian house, and several friends use the same language, which I liked to hear, saying to myself, 'Indeed you will have more tranquillity than going about to colport the Bible.' But when I indulged in such thoughts, an interior voice told me,—'When death comes, of what use will it then be to you if you have had a happy and easy life on earth?' That voice now compels me to say, 'Woe unto me if I do not consecrate myself to sow the good seed of the Kingdom;' and it is for that reason that I am determined to embrace biblical colportage."

The following extracts give some indication of the different classes with which the colporteurs have to deal in Paris. M. Monod writes:—

"It is touching to see in some instances how our Paris people value the Word of God and are willing to make sacrifices for its possession, and also how our colporteurs facilitate the means to obtain it for those who are too poor to pay at once. Passing through the very miserable village of Clichy, I was called by a woman who inquired what I was selling. I produced a Bible, and explained the object and spirit of the book. She expressed a desire to buy a copy, but she had four young children, and her limited means did not allow her to procure even so small a sum as 3*fr.* Seeing her sincere desire, I offered to leave her the Bible and let her pay for it at various times. She accepted my proposal, and I had to return three times before she could complete the small sum required. Every time I visited her I could observe what a blessing the Book brings with it, and I have every reason to hope that the grace of salvation is come to that house."

Guilmin, who labours in the city, sold a copy of the Scriptures under very different circumstances:—

"I offered a Bible to a man in a shop, when two persons came in and remarked to him, 'You do not intend to buy such nonsense?' I looked the