

courageous Colporteurs indeed, even during that stormy period, ventured forth with the volume of consolation and mercy in their hands, and succeeded in keeping up a small sale among the people; but the work at large, promising as it had previously been, was necessarily suspended.

In Switzerland the operations of the Society have been attended with their usual success, particularly in Lausanne.

In Italy a cloud now rests on the hopes and labours which presented so bright a picture in the last year's Report. Lieutenant Graydon, the Society's Agent, was left last year exulting in the unexampled openings which he had found for the introduction of the Scriptures into Lombardy and Piedmont. He was then just returning from a visit to Turin, Genoa, and Nice, whence he had been driven by the approach of contending armies, but in each of which places he had succeeded in effecting a considerable sale, and in establishing depots, from which books might be issued after he had left, and from which very considerable numbers were sent forth, until the authorities interposed, and either wholly or in part stopped the work.

In Tuscany and the Papal States too, through the mysterious dispensations of Divine Providence, the spectacle is presented of blighted prospects, and suspended hope. The political revulsions, which have taken place in those countries, have given ascendancy again to a Church, that has ever shown itself averse to the free circulation of the Scriptures. The last report alluded to the fact of 4000 copies of the Italian Testament printed and in the course of binding in Rome. When the city became invested by the French forces, these books were placed in the custody of the American Consul, who kindly undertook the charge of them, and under the seal of the Consulate they yet remain.

The authorities of the restored Tuscan Government adopted prompt measures to stay the work that was commencing with so much promise in that territory. 3000 copies of Martini's New Testament, just printed at Florence, though the translation of one of their own Archbishops, were quickly seized and locked up; the presses were forcibly stopped in which other editions were in progress, the paper and even the type carried off, the printer subjected to a civil process, and a British officer, who had distinguished himself by his zeal in promoting this and similar objects of benevolence, was with his family banished from the country at a few days notice. Measures have been taken to obtain redress, but the final result of these proceedings is not yet ascertained.

The Committee state that they do not regret that steps had been taken to improve the openings while they existed in Italy. Though considerable expense has been incurred, yet a goodly number of copies of the Scriptures have found their way into the hands of the people, and the avidity with which they were received and bought by all classes, inspires a confidence that the present obstruction is but temporary, and that the wave of biblical truth shall yet ere long, by God's favour, spread over and fertilize the plains of Italy.

From Sweden, Norway, and Russia, the Committee report a continuance of success. At the last Anniversary meeting in Stockholm, the King of Sweden and his four sons were present, and took a warm interest in the proceedings.

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