

which he is called upon to occupy, and the extent to which the resources of the Society must necessarily be taxed. No pecuniary consideration, however, will be permitted to interfere with the full development of the Society's benevolent purpose, which has for its object the gratuitous supply of the Scriptures to the prisoners and wounded of both armies, and the gift of the New Testament and Psalms to the widows of the soldiers who have fallen in battle. Hitherto the work reported has been, to a great extent, confined to the Prussian troops who have been willing to purchase at a reduced price, and to those who were wounded or made prisoners previous to the battle of Sedan, to whom, as far as access could be gained to them, the Scriptures have been freely given.

The great mass of French prisoners, however, amounting to at least 120,000, and the wounded in the more recent conflicts, have yet to be provided for. Mr. Davies has received instructions to expand his work to any extent that the urgency of the circumstances in which he finds himself placed may require.

LIBERAL DONATIONS TOWARDS THIS OBJECT, AND SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE SOCIETY'S AUXILIARIES AND ASSOCIATIONS, ARE EARNESTLY SOLICITED.

Mr. Davies writes as follows :—

"Our work among the German troops began on the 25th July, and since that date it has been continued, I may almost say night and day.

"Taking the agency as a whole the six weeks work among the German and French troops, including the prisoners and wounded of both armies, is represented by the following numbers :

"Bibles, 933 ; Testaments, 102,542 ; Parts, 16,976 ; Total, 120,451. At present the gratuitous circulation constitutes but a small proportion of the copies distributed ; in future this will be different, for our work in the hospitals and among the prisoners has now begun in earnest. Of the number of the wounded I fear to form an estimate. Between the 3rd and 23rd of August—i.e., in exactly twenty days—more than 19,000 passed through the Cologne station alone, on their way to hospitals in North-Western Germany. Add to these the thousands upon thousands who lie in hospitals south of Cologne, in the towns and villages of the districts in France occupied by the Germans, those who have been sent by way of Darmstadt, Mayence, Bingen, Frankfort, to Northern and North-Eastern Germany, and those who have been taken to Bavaria, Wurtemberg, Baden, and Hesse, and you may form an idea of what four weeks' fighting can produce in the way of human suffering, to say nothing of the tens of thousands whose souls have already appeared before the Supreme Judge, and whose bodies moulder in the bloody soil of the battle fields in which they fell.

"The prisoners too are being brought in, in astounding numbers. Unless the numbers captured in Sedan be greatly exaggerated we must add at least 80,000 to the prisoners and wounded already on German soil, which will give us a total of 120,000 Frenchmen to provide for. The harvest is immense. *Pray do not give us orders to curtail our work.* The sacrifice the Society will have to make will be great, but the crisis is an unparalleled one, and British Christians will not shrink from meeting the expense the work entails. We are not forcing the books on the men ; they urgently beg for them. Last Sunday the first thing I saw on entering an hospital in Frankfort, was a Turco deeply absorbed in his Arabic New Testament, which we had given him a week or more before. Germans, French and Arabs are alike in the joy with which they receive God's Holy Word.

"Yesterday I returned to Berlin from a journey to Frankfort, Cologne, and the theatre of the War in the neighborhood of Metz. By a strange combination of circumstances, I was present at the great battles of the 31st August and the 1st of September, when Marshal Bazaine attempted to