

During the summer and autumn there was held in Berlin a local industrial Exhibition.

"The newly-founded Book and Tract Society had a stall, and on their stall and by our own Berlin printer, our Scriptures were exhibited—5,000 portions in German, Hebrew, Bohemian, Danish, Polish, Russian and Swedish, were placed by the Committee at the disposal of the Book and Tract Society for gratuitous distribution, and 4,289 copies actually given away to visitors and exhibitors. It was a very modest work, but may, it is to be hoped, bear fruit. Many Christians, and even some Jews, expressed pleasure at what was being done."

ITALY.

In their Report for last year, your Committee remarked that no rapid progress could be discerned in the mighty work of rousing in Italy a deeper and truer religious feeling than existed in the days of oppression, of alien rule and Papal supremacy.

Their information leads to the same disappointing conclusion this year. Still, with rare exceptions, the rich, and the noble, and the educated refuse to lament to our mourning, or to dance to our piping. Godly sorrow and Gospel joy alike leave them unmoved. This deadly atmosphere, like its type in the natural world, broods especially over Rome.

Your Committee do not utter these regrets because their own work is declining. On the contrary, they have put into circulation in Italy nearly 6,000 copies more than last year, notwithstanding that the year was one of great trial, a year of bad harvests, of terrible inundations, of unusual snow-storms, and of a destructive eruption of Mount Aetna.

Where then have these Scriptures gone, this godly number of over 56,000? They have gone into remote villages, into small towns, into the hands of the poor, and the simple, and the laborious; they have been carried thither on the shoulders of men as simple and laborious as themselves; men who, as the extracts from their journals will show, are the truest Evangelists in that land.

MILAN AND GENOA.—From these centres more than 21,000 copies have been circulated, chiefly by colportage. Freedom to come and go, to offer Scripture for sale on the one side and to buy them on the other, is the rule in all the land. Nevertheless, freedom broadens very slowly here and there. There are districts where the village Demetrius can summon the craftsmen, and the colporteur is threatened within an inch of his life. How access was gained to one such village, up to that time considered to be "inaccessible," is thus told:—

"A. Menezon says: 'Thank God I have been able this month to visit places which I never ventured to go before, both myself and others thinking them inaccessible to the Gospel, because of the superstition of the people, which is incredible. More than once they threatened to cut me in pieces if I ventured to set a foot in their houses. However, you will find in my journal this month P——, one of the places most inaccessible to the Gospel. I went there quietly with a Christian brother, who during the summer had been working at Strasburg in the company of many workmen from Pielungo, to whom he had taken every opportunity of recommending the Gospel. On returning home they begged the good man to let them have a copy of the Scriptures, and for this he asked me to accompany him when he went to see them. I did so, and sold there an octavo Bible with references and two New Testaments. We had, however, some difficulty with the wives of these men who were very much opposed to their husbands having these books, for they greatly fear the priest, who does all in his power to keep down any spirit of inquiry among his flock.'"