

in the life of the individual—of the nation—of the world,—of the world with its manifold agencies, agencies constantly employed for good or for evil ; and each epoch has its peculiarities. Like the frequented path of life in its wonted monotony, the year that passes has its resemblances to all that have preceded it, yet each one is in fact, and in history, unique. Generally, but not always, the last is to us the most important.

The Bible Society has been permitted to add another year of chronicled toils and triumphs. This noble Society has its history. Within the last year or two her special duties have been to move through bloody scenes, walk over fields of carnage, and enter hospitals filled with the suffering and the dying, that she might minister the consolation, and impart the knowledge of salvation which God gives to man through his own blessed word. She has done her work faithfully, and our Heavenly Father has smiled upon it. The messenger of the Bible Society has come to many a wishful patient, and they have rejoiced at his coming. Now the agents of the Society have to follow in the wake of war, and to labour amidst the effects of recent and terrible storms that have well-nigh ruined nations ! And alas ! these storms, in some lands, are raging even now. They have one object before them, viz., to give the troubled and distracted nations,—yea all nations,—God's own Book ; that book which is their only safe guide, the book which has proved the only comfort of many a valorous soldier and noble patriot who has breathed his last on the gory battle-field ; the book which is the only comfort to sorrowing sinners ; the book in whose wisdom is found our wisest legislation ; whose principles fit men to obey and enjoy righteous enactments, and which are the foundation of empire and its security. At this moment we all feel that the great want of distracted Spain is the Bible. France did require, and now requires it. Italy is at this day reaping the advantages of a general distribution of the Sacred Scriptures. Without unnecessarily anticipating the résumé of the operations, hereafter to be given, of the Parent Society during the past year, we would here furnish two interesting incidents : one referring to France, the other to Italy.

In a recent number of the "*Monthly Reporter*" of the B. and F. Bible Society, we have the record of a most valuable reminiscence, from which we make the following extract. The article is significantly headed "*The Cure for France.*" It speaks thus :—"Among the rare and curious volumes in the Society's Library is a little French book with this title, *The Holy Gospels of our Saviour, Jesus Christ*. Translated by Le Maistre de Sacy. Popular edition. Dedicated to the French nation by Working Printers. With an Introduction by the Authors of the *Parliamentary History of the French Revolution*. Paris, 1837.

"The introduction begins by stating that the cheapness of the volume is owing to the fact that the printers gave their services gratuitously. Born and bred amidst poverty and trouble, they could not but feel deep sympathy for their fellow-men. They perceived that the worst slavery to which the poor