

that if this circumstance was directed by a higher power, I had nothing to fear, but on the contrary everything to hope. Consequently I left London for Quebec, where I arrived in September, 1839. On my arrival, I endeavoured to become acquainted with the people, and to ascertain their moral state. I saw at once that they were generally a very kind hearted, simple and hospitable people, but very superstitious; and very much under the influence of their spiritual leaders. I was commissioned to distribute among them the oracles of the living and true God, and that only, which I did with some success. From the 18th September, 1839, to the month of March, 1840, I sold 270 New Testaments and five Bibles, to French Canadian families disseminated in the country places round about Montreal and in the city itself. At the Anniversary of the Montreal Auxiliary Bible Society, January, 1840, I was requested to address the numerous meeting assembled, which I did, and I give here a sketch of my remarks, that I may add my testimony to the efforts of that noble Society, of which the Bible Society of Montreal is but one of the thousand branches, as well as to show what my religious sentiments were at that early period of my Christian warfare:—

Accustomed as I have been until very recently to a private life, I cannot conceal from you, the emotion which I feel in appearing before so numerous and so honorable a meeting as this is. To quiet my excited feelings, I try to persuade myself that I am in presence of none other than of brethren and of fellow citizens. I say fellow citizens, because if I am French by birth, I am a Christian by grace, and accordingly heaven is my country as well as your own—and this is the reason why I am among you this day on this platform, where you have already, by the speeches which have been delivered by the preceding speakers, been powerfully reminded that it is our duty as well as our privilege to be the living monuments of the love of our God, and to make known his ways by all the means of grace which in the dispensation of his mercy he has bestowed upon us. And, I do not think that I exaggerate, when I add to their testimonies, that no religious Society of any kind is more adapted to impress upon us that duty and that privilege than Bible Societies, inasmuch as the aim of the Bible Societies is simple, and their object is great. Their aim is religious, eminently religious, exclusively religious. It is not and cannot be a political aim; for, against whom and in favour of whom could they have that political aim? It is not against this or that nation, because in every place where the Bible has exercised its influence, the condition of the people has been improved, and their happiness and influence promoted. It is not against civil supremacies, against kings or queens, or against rulers, judges, magistrates or superiors, for the Bible gives this command: "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evil doers, and for the praise of them that do well. Honour all men, love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king." It is not against this or that class of people or this or that religious sect, because they offer the Bible to all without distinction or respect of persons. This being the case, I believe none should be more partial to the work of the Bible Societies

than myself; for to all appearance, without these Societies, the Bible would never have reached me, and I would be still in the bosom of the so called—"Mother Church." "worshipping and serving the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever." For, without the least doubt, the priests of the Church of Rome, in the bosom of whose Mother Church I was born and brought up, instead of giving me the word of God, which has been given us to make us wise unto salvation, would have endeavoured on the contrary, according to their custom, to represent that divine Word as a Book which one ought to be suspicious of, and as a subtle poison.

It would seem that a Society which has no other object in view but to cause the Word of God to be distributed extensively in the world, should have all those who bear the name of Christian for auxiliaries; but I am grieved to be obliged to say, that it is quite the contrary. The most bitter opponents of the Bible Societies are to be found among those who call themselves the successors of the Apostles of our Lord—the true and the only ministers of Christ. The fact seems incredible, but it is unfortunately too true, and you know it as well as myself. Yes, these so called ministers of Christ and Successors of the Apostles, instead of "making straight the ways of the Lord," and taking a lead in the distribution of the word of God, call the Gospels of our Lord and the Epistles of his Apostles, dangerous books, full of corrupting discourses and maxims. If it were otherwise, what salutary use they would make of their position in society, and of the great influence which they exercise in it. Why is it, then, that they do not employ their advantages in favor of the word of God? Why is it, that they do not cause the glad tidings of salvation to be disseminated throughout the world? Ah! methinks, the cause of this is, that their kingdom is of this world—that their will is not subject to the will of God—that they are unsubdued and their hearts are in enmity with God. But, if we have reason to regret these things, we ought not to fear the consequences—they will not be conquerors in the struggle between truth and error; between light and darkness. Truth will ultimately prevail. The captain under whose banner we fight the good fight of faith, and who cannot deceive us, has promised us the victory. He has told his disciples these comforting words: "Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." Already you have many tokens of this promise; and thank God, you may rejoice and bless his holy name that you are privileged to be his fellow workers in extending his kingdom upon earth. No doubt, you feel that your work is a work of faith, and you do not expect to see all the results of your labours, or that God will reveal unto you in what measure or in what circumstances you co-operate the most in the fulfilling of his glorious decrees. It is sufficient for you to know that your efforts are not in vain in the Lord, since our Lord has declared that even a cup of cold water given in his name will not remain without a blessing and without a reward. * * *

In a comparative review of the circumstances of Bible Societies in France and Canada, we will find the two almost wholly opposed one to another. In France, a Colporteur has to contend against an inveterate incredulity, and in Canada against a gross ignorance and a bold fanaticism. In France, the dissemination of the Scriptures is, however, more extensive than in Canada, because the numerous schoolmasters supported by Government, and who for that reason are, more or less, independent of the Romish priesthood; are all or more or less opposed to them. In Canada, small and numerous depots might be established among the scattered Protestants who enjoy some influence or trade with the French Canadians; many of whom, I have no doubt, would gladly become the coadjutors of the Bible Societies, and promote their interests among the benighted people in the midst of whom they live, as in so doing they would extend their own influence, and contribute to their own happiness in no small

degree. If you could adopt that plan, I think that your success might be very great, and your difficulties less numerous and powerful than if you were employing 50 Colporteurs, in this Colony. I do not mean to infer by that suggestion, that Colporteurs are useless, and that we should employ none of them, for I do not entertain the opinion that we should adopt a plan of evangelization altogether different to the one pursued until now by the Bible Societies; but I say, that we should avail ourselves of all the means which God places at our disposal, and which we know He will bless, to get access to the people without exciting their religious feelings and prejudices. And, who can do so more effectually than he who knows not only the people but also the peculiar circumstances of the families whose friendship, confidence and respect he enjoys? It is, therefore, very necessary, I think, for us to pursue the original system, "and not to leave the other undone." * * *

The proofs which corroborate this assertion are very numerous, and several of them within my knowledge, but as it would be too long, even to enumerate those which are known to me, I shall confine myself to the following statistics:

The British and Foreign Bible Society in London, of which this Society is an Auxiliary Branch, received last year, the sum of 2,516,123 francs 50 centimes; and its expenses have been 2,556,223 francs 60 centimes. That Society has caused to be distributed in the course of that year, 65,868 copies of the Holy Scriptures; and since its formation, 34 years ago, 11,546,111. The French and Foreign Bible Society has distributed in France, in the course of last year, 121,412 copies, and since its formation, 6 years ago, 528,954 copies. After this, we may be permitted to declare that whosoever calls in question your work and its aim, its advantages and its success, is not only a senseless judge but also a Christian without much christianity. For, although you have no other proofs of the excellency of your work, than these promises of your heavenly Father: "My word shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."....."the wicked shall be consumed with the spirit of the mouth of the Lord, and shall be destroyed with the brightness of his coming." These promises, I say, should be enough to induce you to persevere to the end, in your noble work. But, besides these positive and immutable promises, God confirms them by allowing you to enjoy several fruits of your labours; and the prospects of your work are so encouraging that there must be much spiritual blindness in those who do not perceive the importance of your labours; for although your success is not above what we ought to expect from such an agency, it is, however, above what our wavering faith permitted us to expect.

There is a proverb which says: "That on the battle fields, there is but one ball in a thousand, which goes to its destination." Why in a better war, should we reckon the random shots? Why should we think with regret of our losses, whilst the warrior considers his toils sufficiently compensated, when after so many troubles, miseries and vain attacks, he succeeds at last in gaining the victory, after shedding the blood of his brethren of mankind, at the risk of precipitating them into the abyss of eternal misery. Twelve thousand copies expended to bring an immortal soul to the knowledge of the saving truth! Who would not sacrifice them, to become the instrument of so great a blessing, which will be a crown of glory for the possessor? But, thanks be to the Almighty Ruler of the universe, there is not so great a disproportion. By means of the 528,954 copies distributed in France during the last six years, we may safely reckon that nine thousand souls at least, have passed from darkness to light, from the power of the wicked one to the kingdom of our Creator and Redeemer; from the dominion of the Pope to that of "Christ our righteousness." What an amount of good, unknown to men, has resulted and will still re-