

do better. Now, we want you to buy one too." The mechanic at once handed over the price of a Testament, and requested me to write it his name and mine, and put down the date, that they might not forget the time of this interesting transaction.—*Am. B. S. Record.*

EAGERNESS TO RECEIVE THE WORD.

The following letter from a correspondent in Texas makes report of the opening of a box of Scriptures consigned to his care :—

I have received the donation of Bibles and Testaments you sent. On their reception we had a jubilee. Many needy were standing round ready to receive the precious gift when the box was opened. The destitution among the coloured people of this section of the country is woeful. Very few of the church members or the coloured preachers have Bibles, and they draw their sermons from dreams and visions. What wonder if the people are superstitious and fanatical? The people are so poor that, if they are supplied, books will have to be donated to them.—*Am. B. S. Record.*

REPORT OF ABOU SELIN, BLIND BIBLE-MAN.

Last month I heard that there were a great number of pilgrims on their way to Jerusalem from Constantinople, &c., in the steamer here; so I went and tried to get into conversation with them. They told me they were going to Jerusalem for the Feast and to see the Greek Fire. I asked them if they could believe such things. They said that it was true that every year this fire comes down from heaven. Many of them were Turks, so I talked to them in Turkish, and read to them from Col. iii. 1, and John xii. 20, about the Greeks who came up to the Feast, and I drew their thoughts to Christ as the true light come down from heaven into the world. There were many Greeks among them, and I happened to have many Greek Testaments with me, and very soon they seemed like a school, each eagerly reading what I had pointed out to them. But some were exceedingly angry, and wanted to beat me, yet because I was only a blind man they forbore out of pity. So the captain, seeing their division and disputing, said, "It is enough, shut your book now and go."

As I went back, the boatman said, "If you could have seen their faces it would have frightened you; they were all red or yellow with rage."

My wife went one day to see a priest who was very ill, dying, and found the people around his bed talking about the Greek Fire at Jerusalem. She said "I want to ask the priest what he thinks. Is the fire really from heaven? My husband always teaches the people that it is not really true; but then he is a Protestant. What does the priest think?" Then he said, "My dear child, to be sure it is not true; it is fire made by the people. I cannot quarrel with my brethren, the priests, but certainly I do not believe in the fire from heaven. Your husband is right." So she came home and told me, and I was glad to hear it. I think that all the better Greek priests deny this great imposture, but they do not like to speak out.

During the forty days Greek Fast, it is the custom of people to go and confess to the priest. A man who had long had much study with me went to confess to the priest, and, to his astonishment, began to tell him many new things. When he expressed his surprise, the man said, "I don't want to make a show of my knowledge, but I want to tell you this; I cannot any longer believe in the worship of pictures, or in the prayers of the saints for us, nor in the prayer for the dead, nor in the change of the bread and wine, nor in any sacraments but the two: Baptism and the Lord's Supper."

Then the priest said, "You are a Protestant?"

He answered, "I have nothing to say about that. Will you let me