

the early history of colportage in France and elsewhere, and quoted the opinions of D'Aubigne, Baxter, Cotton Mather, Dr. Duff and others, as to the inestimable value of good books, and of colportage as a means of distributing them. Baxter said "I would rather be the author of books to be carried in peddlers' packs to the poor man's door, than of books to stand in golden libraries. If men that in life or at death give a stated revenue for good works, would settle the one-half on some *suitable good books*, it might prove a very great means of reformation."

Dr. Burns then sketched the great need of colportage among the millions of the United States many years ago, and the wonderful work accomplished by Rev. R. Cook and the American Tract Society. He referred briefly to the work in Scotland and England. Spurgeon, who employs over 40 colporteurs, says of the colportage system, "*We know of no way of doing good so cheap, so necessary, so useful, as colportage. It is one of the best and cheapest modes of evangelization yet discovered.*" Dr. Duff also declared "*Colportage to be one of the noblest and worthiest of existing enterprises.*" Rev. Mr. Gillies, the Scottish delegate to the American Tract Society's Jubilee, told of from 400 to 500 colporteurs in the United Kingdom, and gave it as his matured judgment that "There is no agency or rather combination of two kinds of agency, the living voice of earnest Christian men, aided by the printed word, *so flexible and so easily adapted to the mission of saving men, no scheme God has so abundantly blessed as Christian colportage.*" Colportage is doing much to counteract the poison of the press, to counter-work those vultures of the mind that swoop down on the carrion of humanity, and to drive off those literary vampires that are sucking the life blood of the young. No stronger argument can be found for the continuance and extension of such a work as ours, than the huge and hideous dimensions attained by the Satanic press with its graduating scale of "bad, worse, worst," in the form of Periodicals, Papers, Pictures, and Dime Novels, crammed with blood and thunder adventures, and silly, sensual stories and songs that empty their fetid moral cesspools into so many homes, often unknown to parents and guardians, familiarizing our youth with doings of burglars, murderers, gambling hells, and dance houses; making virtue ludicrous and vice attractive, converting highwaymen into heroes and harlots into heroines. The flood of this

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