

To the Secretaries of the Upper Canada Bible Society:

DEAR SIRS,—Permit me through you to express my gratitude to the Society for their valuable grant of Testaments and Portions of Scriptures, for our Mission work on the Welland canal. On that very important field I have the opportunity not only of supplying the brave sailor, but also the wayfarer and industrious immigrant on his way to the land of the setting sun from the different countries of Europe, with the precious words of eternal life in their own language. It is gratifying to receive their expressions of thanksgiving on the receipt of the heavenly treasure. As to many, it is the first time they have possessed a portion of the Holy Scriptures, coming, as many of them do, from Roman Catholic countries. It is not our privilege to witness the growth and development of the precious seed, but it is ours to sow in hope beside all waters, and doubtless we shall reap if we faint not. The past year of our labour has been cheered with manifold indications of good amongst our sailors. Permit me to give one instance. One afternoon on board of a vessel, I got into conversation with a young man at the wheel; after a pleasant salutation he said, don't you remember me getting a Bible from you last year? I said it had escaped my memory. Well, he remarked, after I left the canal I went down to New York; while waiting for a vessel. I boarded with a widow and her daughter, who showed me great kindness, and as a token of gratitude, as I had nothing else to give, I gave the Bible to the daughter ere I went to sea. On my return after a two or three months' voyage, I called upon them again. In conversation, the daughter told me that quite a change had taken place with her since I left, by reading the Bible; it had been blest to her soul, and that now she was a member of a Christian Church, and would like me to go and hear her minister. I went, and was much pleased; but, he added, I gave away the Bible, and I needed it as much as any one myself, for I am a prodigal son. We had a very interesting conversation, and may we not hope that he also will be brought back to his Father's house to share the blessing he had, as it were, unconsciously conveyed to another. In carrying on the work, I find the portions of the Scriptures very useful, they are convenient for the pocket, often read when a larger book would be laid aside, and have, in numerous instances, led the reader to purchase the whole Bible. As an evidence of this, I sold 55 Bibles during the season of navigation last year, and some under very hopeful circumstances. One evening I went into a cabin, and the stewardess said she would like to get a good Bible for her brother. I had one that suited, which she purchased, and after a long conversation on her personal state, and standing before God, she deeply regretted her past life of folly and sin. I urged her to come at once to Jesus. She in tearful earnestness asked, do you think he will take me? I said yes, for he says so in his own word: "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." She was enabled to come and cast herself upon him who receiveth sinners. After her soul found rest on Jesus, she said, now I will keep that Bible for myself, for I think it would be very wicked not to have a Bible, and not to read it. Truly the entrance of God's word giveth light, it giveth understanding to the simple. Trusting that this blessed word may have free course and be glorified.

I remain,

Your fellow labourer,

THOS. BONE,
Sailors' Missionary.

St. Catharines, May 6th, 1871.

COLPORTAGE LABOUR IN THE NORTH.

The field of toil to which the labours of our colporteur in the new and sparsely settled portion of the country embraced in the following report, is one towards which the attention of our Society has been for several months