

COLPORTAGE IN OTHER LANDS.—THE BRITISH COLPORTAGE ASSOCIATION.

A Colporteur work appears to have sprung up in London by the almost unparalleled munificence of a single individual, Mr. Bewley of Dublin, a devoted Christian, who has a large interest in a Gutta Serena Company in London. Taking a chop one day in a plain eating house in London, with a friend, a warm-hearted Scotch Minister, who is devoting himself to the wants of the destitute masses of England, their conversation turned on the subject of Colportage. After full consideration of the subject, Mr. Bewley decided to enlist in this enterprise, and authorized his friend to employ as many suitable Colporteurs as he could find, proposing himself to furnish the funds necessary. In fulfillment of this purpose, he at once deposited *ten thousand pounds* (\$50,000) in the Bank of England for the support of this work. Twelve Colporteurs were soon found, and through the influence of Lord Shaftesbury and Ministers of the Established Church and Dissenting Bodies, the British Colportage Association was organized, by whom these twelve Colporteurs were formally set apart and appointed to their work.

At a recent meeting held in the Metropolitan Tabernacle London, for the purpose of commending the work, the Rev. Mr. Spurgeon made an eloquent address, from which the following is an extract. Referring to the word "Colporteur," he said:—

"I have heard people call it coal-porter, and they have thought that a Colportage Society was a Society for carrying coals. Well, that is quite correct. It is a Society for carrying live coals about, and these live coals set many a place on fire. Still, it is an ugly name, and 'book-hawker' is not much better. There is no good name for it. It is a sort of unmentionable thing, but still unmentionable blessings have certainly come through its agency.

"In our own country, since those times, the sale of religious books has always been a main help to the cause of truth. You may be sure that this would naturally be so, because the sale of irreligious books is a main-stay to the cause of evil. Think of the infidel publications of England, and what is worse than that, the silly, trashy novels, from which people learn all sorts of mischief, and which debauch the mind of England. These things do infinite damage I believe to people's souls, and the only way by which we can meet the damaging effects of the books, is to scatter good books all over the land.

"As I have already said, there are large districts, where the ordinary bookseller is not within reach, and there are a great number of people who would not buy if there were a bookseller right opposite, but who feel as if they cannot help buying when the man calls at the door and

shows the book. confess. I like the excellent in its way family is, I believe

"In Scotland the years ago, and who have now more than land, scattering the got the ambition in big as that in Scotland rather quiet but I may get it. I will ever, prayer and faith all over the country the agents, why, then the work should not

"It seems to be many of our earnest might perhaps be preachers, but who pray with the sick, and to lead sinners of great oratorical would naturally get a class of men, men love to souls, and we tell him the way of Colporteur going from books, selling as many a tract, and if wished

The necessity for the discovery made the extensive and injurious publication infidel. About ten Edinburgh, reaching number of churches that this demoralising other large towns, and cations formed the students, and were the multitudes even of the neglect of reading.