

churches, either by sale or by grants on some special occasions, as marriages or confirmations. By this you see that the French Bible Societies have their special work, quite distinct from ours ; and if (which God forbid !) the British and Foreign Bible Society was ever compelled to abandon its work in France, it would forsake the 25,000,000 of Roman Catholics who receive the Scriptures by no other channel than that of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

If you now ask, " But have you seen any fruit of these 7,000,000 copies of the Scriptures circulated in France during these last seventy years ? " I will only point out a fact that may be testified in hundreds of places. When you travel through France, if you hear of a small Protestant church where you least expected to find one, far as it is from all Protestant action, nine times out of ten you will find, on enquiry, that several years back some Roman Catholics of that village had assembled one day and had determined that they would call a Protestant pastor to explain the Scriptures to them. But how came it that they had the Scriptures, which the Roman Church keeps so carefully hidden from the people ? A colporteur had been passing, it may be, many years before ; a single Bible had been sold in the whole village, and away he had gone quite sad and distressed, thinking he had been wasting much time and strength for nothing. But the Lord was watching over the precious seed ; His Word was first read by one, then by another, then by several together, until their eyes were opened ; they perceived the difference between the Gospel and the teachings they were accustomed to receive in their churches, and they called a pastor. There is a small congregation formed, and a prospering evangelical church, which owes its very existence, under God's blessing, to the Bible alone, circulated by Biblical colporteurs. This has not happened once, but numberless times ; and when we now hear of the great facility experienced in France by pastors and by evangelists, by such men as our honoured friend Mr. McAll, to gather large congregations, wherever they make known their intention of preaching the Gospel, is this happy state of things not due, if not exclusively, at least for the greater part, to the persevering efforts of this Society, which has been sowing the good seed in all parts of France ? And who shall tell the thousands of thousands whom we do not know, and who never will bear the name of Protestants, but who, by the reading only of the Bible, which they would never have known but for our colporteurs, have found the Saviour ? I have the growing conviction that if it were possible, instead of forty or fifty colporteurs as we have at present, to put at work 200 men, really actuated by the love of souls, and counting their life for nothing if they can only spread the good news in all places, we would see before long many of those little groups described, earnestly calling for spiritual food. But to obtain that object we must have real missionaries. If the man who is the bearer of the Holy Scriptures is not himself a living Christian, who shows in his person the power of the Gospel to change evil into good, he compromises the work which he pretends to further. Hence the immense difficulty we have to find colporteurs fully qualified for their task. In past times, if only the colporteurs were honest men and good sellers it was enough, but this is not sufficient now. Allow me to conclude by recommending them and ourselves to your prayers, dear friends, that we may all be of those servants to whom the Lord when He cometh shall say, " Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

Mr. KIRKPATRICK, of Brussels, gave a brief account of the Society's interesting work in Belgium, which began in 1835, since which time it has circulated 600,000 copies of the Scriptures in that country.

The Rev. G. PALMER DAVIES said : We have been told this year is a year of jubilee, and I therefore hope you will excuse me if I strike a jubilant note. If I succeed in getting a jubilant echo from you in connection with the great work which has been entrusted to me in Germany and Switzerland, then I shall be doubly thankful. Fifty years ago the Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society passed a resolution that Dr. Pinkerton should be sent out to Frankfort-on-the-Maine, and be the Society's Agent for