

tell you at the same time, that I suspect you are one of those detestable Socialists whom our priests point out to us as the very pests of society. Produce your papers, as well as your merchandise; and take care that the first are in good order, and that among the last you have no books or pamphlets that are prohibited.' The colporteur obeyed accordingly. His papers were, of course, acknowledged to be correct, and, as to his knapsack, the mayor found to his surprise that it contained only one kind of book, the New Testament, and nothing else whatever. 'I fear,' cried the mayor, 'that in my haste I have wronged you. So far from being a Socialist, you appear to me to be a worthy man; and the explanations which you have given me respecting the object of your work, and the admirable contents of the Book which you seek to distribute, are so satisfactory, that I shall be happy to purchase one of your copies.' Nor was this all;—of his own accord the friendly mayor drew up a certificate, in which he spoke in high terms of the character of the colporteur, and the excellence of the work in which he was engaged, recommending both to the protection and aid of all into whose hands it might fall.

"One of our colporteurs, deeply afflicted at being, with rudeness, denied access to nearly every house at the gate of which he presented himself, in order to attempt the disposal of his precious volumes, hesitated about knocking at the gate of one of the last houses in the place, the exterior of which was very handsome: he, however, at length decided on knocking. A servant asked him what he wanted? 'To sell the Bible,' replied the colporteur. 'The Bible!' rejoined the other, eyeing him from head to foot; 'it has no business here any more than you yourself have.' 'What do you mean?' 'I mean, and I say, that my master believes neither in God nor devil, and that if he sees you here, he will order you off immediately.' 'Notwithstanding,' replied the colporteur, 'will you inform him who I am? and perhaps he may be disposed to see me.' The servant, after being absent for a few moments, returned, remarkably softened in her manner, and in the name of her master invited the colporteur to come in. He was ushered into the presence of an aged man, whose appearance betokened affluence, and who with much kindness requested him to be seated. 'Various persons of my acquaintance,' remarked the old man, 'have spoken to me about Bible colporteurs; and for a long time I have much wished to meet with one, and to have some conversation with him on matters of religion; from this you will see that I am pleased to meet with you, and if it be agreeable to you, we will at once enter upon the subject.' Many questions were then addressed by the stranger to the colporteur, with regard to his occupation, respecting the Holy Scriptures, and the Christian faith. Seemingly affected by the replies which he received, the old man ended a long conversation by saying, 'I shall purchase a Bible of you, not for the purpose of satisfying an empty feeling of curiosity, but with a view of applying myself to the discovery in this book of that which will satisfy the wants of my soul. I am approaching the time when I must finish my course here below, for I am eighty years old. It is enough to tell you how anxious I am, with the assistance of God, to become possessed of a real and living faith; and when I shall have attained to it, to become myself, as much as possible, a Bible colporteur among my friends and acquaintances. Pray for me, my dear colporteur; you see time presses: oh, yes, pray for me!'"

IRELAND.

The following extracts are from the papers of the Irish Society of London:—

"Roman Catholic farmers and peasants petition for instruction in the Irish Bible, and assert their 'inalienable right to read it.' The setting sun witnesses young men and maidens, old men and children, leaving their homes to steal, under cover of the shades of evening, to the lonely cabin on the mountain side, to 'search the Scriptures' by the light of the bog-wood splinter. Daring and ferocious Ribbonmen, bent on deeds of blood, and mad against the Protestant faith, meet with 'the strange book,' and read it, and become 'clothed and in their right mind,' and are found 'sitting at the feet of Jesus.'