

‘I have stated above, that during the past year, much more than in preceding years, the officers in a number of regiments have themselves listened to what our Colporteurs had to say, and have no longer treated them with the disdain of former times. These gentlemen while in the camps, congregate together in considerable numbers for their meals, in the canteens which are specially appropriated for their use. Many and many a time it has happened of late, that on seeing the Colporteur about to pass the canteen, he has been called in, and has had a lengthened conversation with them. Under such circumstances it has frequently happened that he has sold thirty and even forty copies of the small Bible of Ostervald, as the result of these conversations. And what is still more gratifying to mention is, that at the present time officers of all ranks are not seldom met with who accompany the Colporteurs from tent to tent, in order to recommend the soldiers to pay good attention to the important and earnest words about to be addressed to them. More frequently still, some officers have asked the Colporteurs to entrust them with a small number of New Testaments, of the sale of which they wished to take charge; and in this they succeeded very well, their sales being very often to soldiers who previously had rejected with disdain all the offers made to them by the Colporteurs. There cannot be a doubt that what these excellent officers thus do must be all the more well pleasing to the Lord, since such a course of action requires a considerable amount of courage; for looking at matters as they really are, and while taking care to guard ourselves against everything like illusion, it is unfortunately but too true that, with certain exceptions—which, God be praised, are increasing in number—the majority of the officers in our army are very far from being in such a frame of mind as would lead them to take the instructions and the commandments of the Word of God as the rule of their whole life. However, as there is a considerable amount of frankness and open-heartedness, as well as good faith, among the ranks of our officers, we are warranted in hoping that God has commenced a work in their midst which will become increasingly developed.’