

master and scripture-reader. It is hoped that this arrangement may be made in the course of the winter.

COLPORTING.

This important branch of the missionary work will also, it is trusted, be at once entered upon. The Committee are thoroughly alive to the great necessity of this agency for spreading the light, and they have constantly sought for an efficient colporteur. At the present time two competent and experienced men have offered their services, and it has been resolved to employ one for four months in the hope that an increase of funds will be placed at the disposal of the Committee, to enable them still further to continue his services, at the end of that time.*

The Committee therefore ask the renewed efforts of their friends to enable them to sustain these additional agencies upon which they enter in the exercise of prayer and faith.

INCIDENTS OF A THREE WEEKS' TOUR OF COLPORTING.

One of the Missionaries engaged at Sabrevois, having devoted three or four weeks during the past summer to Colporting, it has been thought that some extracts from his journal might be interesting to our readers, and shew something of the state of the people amongst whom the work is being carried on. We accordingly give a few examples:

THE BIBLE FORBIDDEN BY THE PRIESTS.

Called at one or two houses, and offered the New Testament at a low price. Was met at the door by a polite refusal. "Our Priests forbid us." "My Pastor does not permit me to take it, and I do not wish to disobey him." Entered the house of a small farmer, found the wife only at home, an aged and somewhat afflicted person. I enquired about her circumstances; and on finding that she was left in rather a lonely condition, I expressed my sympathy with her. Remarking that she seemed not to have a great while longer to live in this world, I asked her whether she had a good hope in looking forward to another world. She replied that that was what made her unhappy. She did not know where she was going. If she knew that, she would be happy. I took out my French Testament, and read to her John iii, 16. After speaking upon it, I asked her, if they were not beautiful words. She said, with tears in her eyes, "*elles sont superbes.*" My companion, one

of our Missionary students, then began at my request to read the chapter from the commencement. After a few verses had been read, I made some remark about this being the word of God. She seemed to comprehend at once that it was the forbidden book. Her whole manner changed. She rose from her seat, began to move about in as bustling a manner as she could, opening windows, doors, and even stoves, and said, "she did not want that book. She had good books of her own." We were obliged to leave her, feeling that nothing further was to be done, and that the prejudice against the Bible must be deep indeed, which could lead her to turn from it the instant she knew it to be such, though the words of Jesus himself, read to her out of it, had commended themselves so strongly to her heart as beautiful and wonderful words.

PREJUDICE OVERCOME.

Another more encouraging case, however, succeeded at a house considered to be very bigoted, where they took a Testament on loan, though refusing it at first, after hearing a few portions of it read.

At the next house, also where we found an aged woman and one younger, they listened attentively to some passages we read, one of them asking whether those were the words of Jesus. Here, also, they accepted the loan of a Testament.

At another house in the same neighbourhood, where the father is nominally a Protestant, but the mother a Roman Catholic, the father was persuaded to take a Bible for his son, a fine intelligent lad of 15, who seemed desirous to have it, promising at the same time to pay for it by weekly instalments.

THE BIBLE LOCKED UP.

Called at a house where we found a mother and her daughter. Told her the object of our visit. She said that she had the Gospel. Asked to see it. To this she consented, and producing from her pocket a key, she handed it to her daughter who opened with it a box. From this box, another key was produced; a second box was opened, and from the bottom a true copy of the book we had in our hands (De Sacy's Version) was produced. Expressing my pleasure that she had the true Gospel in her house, she assured me with much warmth that they never read it. It was given by a Protestant relative, but never opened.

Thus closely does Rome, wherever she can, lock up God's word, and keep it in the dark, keeping her people as surely in the dark at the same time.

* A Colporteur has since been engaged.