

papers here denounced this as unfair, and quite contrary to the spirit of Article 11. of the constitution, defending us as well as they were able. The Ministerial papers, however, say that it comes within the spirit of the Article, and that the Government (in the person of the Governor) have acted constitutionally.

"To-day the Governor of this Province has issued an order to have removed from every Protestant chapel any outside sign giving notice of the worship within, which embraces sundry buildings where evangelical services have long been held. Not content with this, the same Commissioner from the Governor has requested us to remove our street signs, which we are this moment covering over with a coat of black paint. Our Bibles, exposed in the shop windows, I do not remove, as nothing to that effect was notified. We hardly see what next will transpire. Only last week, our colporteur in Cadiz was brought up before the Civil Authorities, by the denouncement of three priests, for selling our books in the public market. After hearing the case, our colporteur was eventually dismissed, and leave was given him to go on as usual.

"This is very annoying, but we wait patiently the issue of events; should our worst fears be realized, we shall still wait patiently upon Him who can overrule every event for the extension of His kingdom."

Since the above was written, the Madrid authorities have sent round by night further to obliterate the signs of the Depot, and have ordered the removal of all copies of the Scriptures from the window. The Committee have unanimously resolved to bring the whole subject, through their noble President, under the attention of Lord Derby, with a view to an effectual check being placed on the intolerance of the Spanish Government.

PORTUGAL.

The winter, which in this country is usually so mild that labour in the fields and orchards is never interrupted, has during the past year been so severe as to kill much cattle, and be the cause of great distress among the peasant population. The warm sun of their genial climate is a necessary adjunct to their scanty clothing, and the exchange of this for frost and snow has found them so unprepared to sustain the rigour of a cold and adverse season, that many of them have endured privations of no ordinary kind, and their means have barely sufficed for the support of life. In the Algarve, famine has been so imminent as to call for the help of government, which has sent supplies of food and seed so as to insure at least a partial crop during the coming harvest. Under these circumstances the colporteurs have necessarily met with much discouragement, and the question has often been put to them, "How can you expect us to purchase books when we have not money enough even to buy bread?" Nor have they themselves been altogether free from the suffering they have seen around them. Exposure to cold, and the rough fare which has been their portion, have told upon the constitution of several, and laid them up for a longer or shorter period. Notwithstanding, however, all these drawbacks, the circulation of the past year has been maintained nearly at the same level as that of 1874. The sales by colportage have amounted to 806 Bibles, 2,438 New Testaments, and 1,461 Portions, whilst from the Depot, 69 Bibles, 228 Testaments, and 74 Portions have been distributed, giving a total of 5,076 volumes. The result of the gradual diffusion of the Word of God in a country which had long been kept in darkness may not be immediately apparent, but your Agent is of opinion that a great work is progressing in Portugal, which, if maintained, will go far towards undermining the foundations of Popery and superstition. Schools are springing up in various quarters, in which the Scriptures are taught in their simplicity by God-fearing men, and public worship on the Lord's day and during the