

Italy.—Very soon after your last anniversary there came the sad news from Italy that your Society had lost the Agent who had won himself such esteem there by twenty-one years of large-hearted Bible work. In 1870, Mr. Thomas H. Bruce took care that on the very day on which the King's troops entered Rome, the Bible should be carried within it, too, by your colporteurs. On the first Sunday after the entry, he read aloud to the bystanders in the Coliseum a passage from St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans.

It was very much owing to the generous aid of the Committee of the Religious Tracts Society, and its late Secretary, the Rev. Dr. Manning, that your Committee were provided with such an able and suitable successor to Mr. Bruce as the Rev. Auguste Meille. Italy has thus become one of the countries in which your Society is represented by a native; and there is a special charm in the fact that the Bible Agent for Italy is a Waldensian. Within the year your forty colporteurs have sold 39,000 copies, which is considerably more than in the previous year. The Exhibition at Milan and the purchases of other Societies have also increased the circulation. And your Committee have undertaken an outlay of several hundreds of pounds to provide Italy with a cheap Bible of far better type and quality than it has ever yet had.

Spain.—The serious illness of Mr. Corfield has been one of those sad episodes which have made the past year one of peculiar anxiety to your Committee. When recovery began to come, it was at first only partial, and your veteran Agent asked permission to resign his post next June. But so much improvement has since taken place that your Committee now thankfully hope that no change in the Agency will be necessary.

The sales of your twenty-three colporteurs have increased by 1,000 copies, but the advance of nearly 12,000 copies in the whole circulation is due to increased purchases by the Scotch Bible Society. Two new districts have received resident colporteurs.

The Government have not yet amended any article in the Constitution, but their more liberal interpretation of the one upon religion has been productive of good. A colporteur was summoned one night to a private house. He found the mayor, the magistrate, and others assembled. They stood up to receive him, and asked him to tell them something of what Protestants believe. He based his reply upon the Apostles' Creed. They were pleased, promised him protection, and provided a room where a neighbouring pastor might minister to all who chose to assemble for worship.

Denmark.—The land which sent out the first Protestant missions to the heathen of India in the East and Greenland in the West was itself till recently denied more than a very scanty supply of God's Word. It was a monopoly of the Royal Orphan House; and not ten years ago your Society was more hampered in printing the Scriptures in Denmark than in Spain or in Rome. Now all is changed. Anti-Biblical influences lift their heads boldly, even in high places; but they seem powerless to stay the spread of God's Word. Last year, notwithstanding a terribly severe winter and a scanty harvest in the summer, your sales were the highest on record. In a population of only two millions you have within the last twenty-six years circulated more than half a million copies of Scripture, large or small.

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