

our friend in Italy—says there is no book in the Italian language at the present time which is so largely bought and he believes so largely read as the Word of God.

Coming through France not very long ago I met our agent in Paris, our distinguished and able agent, M. Gustave Monod, a nephew of the late Adolphe Monod, the most distinguished of modern Protestant preachers on the Continent. The nephew is a man of the same principles and spirit as his distinguished uncle. He was educated for the law; he gave up the law for the Bible, and we are very fortunate in having him for our agent in France. I met him, and some of his colporteurs at his bureau, and we talked over the work and then we went to see the site of the Exhibition, and towering above the site of the Exhibition there is the great Eiffel Tower. Now, a word about the Eiffel Tower, and something that happened there. Those of you who have travelled in France will know that there is a very popular paper called the *Figaro* which has a very large circulation. It is a very enterprising paper, and during the Exhibition the publishers put up a press in the Eiffel Tower and printed from week to week an Eiffel Tower edition of the *Figaro*. One morning to our surprise and pleasure this Eiffel Tower edition of the *Figaro* came out with an account of the work of the British and Foreign Bible Society in the Exhibition, and mentioned the fact that we circulated the Scriptures in 300 languages. One of those wise gentlemen, who know so much, wrote a letter to the *Figaro* and said, "Mr. Editor, either the Society has been befooling you or you are trying to befool your readers. The idea of any one book being published in 300 languages is absurd, because there are not 300 languages in the world." This gave the editor the opportunity of returning to the charge the following week, which he did by printing in extenso the list of the 300 languages in which we publish the Scriptures. One night when M. Monod was riding home in the dark upon one of the tram cars, he heard the conductor bemoaning his unhappy fate in having to do with so many people who spoke so many different languages. Said he, "I can't understand them, and they don't understand me. One needs to understand all the languages in the world." And the gentleman with whom the conductor was talking said, "Then you would have to know a great many, you would have to know 300 at least." That was got either from our figures posted up in the Exhibition or from the information given in the *Figaro*.

The Eiffel Tower is the highest building in the world, the highest building yet erected on the face of the earth. We have been circulating from year to year during the last four or five years an average of four million copies of Bibles, Testaments and portions. Now, take a single day's issues of the British and Foreign Bible Society and go out into an open space in one of your squares, and taking a broad flagstone for a base, begin to make a pile of the books on that flagstone. Take the big Bibles until you have done with them, and then the next size until you have finished with the Bibles, and then the Testaments, Gospels, and portions, etc., and by the time you have done your day's work you will have built a pile as high as the top of the Eiffel Tower. That is one single day's work, and is not that magnificent work and well worth doing? Another thing about the Paris