

an old acquaintance whom he had known as a Roman Catholic and an irreligious man, now united with the Methodist Church of Naples. Explanation was eagerly asked and frankly given. He had seen in 1871 some lads tearing books in pieces. He had gathered up some fragments, amongst them St. John x. and xi. Illness and reflection had been his commentators, and the Holy Spirit had led him to the knowledge of the Lord. All is not lost even when pearls prove to have been cast before swine.

SPAIN and PORTUGAL.—Your Committee commend these countries to the best wishes and prayers of their friends. There are bright spots here and there, but no extensive hungering and thirsting after righteousness is apparent as yet. The circulation in Spain was 39,000, as against 54,000, and a large proportion of these consisted of Portions. In Portugal, the bigotry that opposes the work is more distinctly than in Spain a bigotry of ignorance, and as this clears away, progress will become more marked. The total number of copies circulated was 5,806, as against 8,238 in 1878.

Some statistics officially published during the year give a view of the ignorance of the lower orders which is astonishing. 17,000 persons were in prison, and of these 10,000 could neither read nor write, 142 had killed one or both parents; 586 had committed murder; and 6,872 had been condemned for manslaughter. One of the brightest spots in Spain is the neighborhood of Barcelona, of which Mr. Corfield gives the following account:—

'The work of the Churches here gets more consolidated year by year. What pleasure one derives in mixing heartily with the Lord's people! My recent visit was much enjoyed. The friends there giving to your Agent a warm welcome. Our colporteur's work is a constant supply of the Word of Life to the shipping, and to the neighborhood. I wish we could see more places like this with public and private means of grace. Having received of the Lord, one has but to witness to His goodness, to find prepared a rich feast, of which all may readily partake. May the joy of the Lord be our constant strength.'

In Portugal, illustrations often occur of the old blind bigoted opposition to the Scriptures, which, it must be hoped, tends to die out as enlightenment increases. A single example is given.