

There can be no doubt but the return of the French prisoners to their own country, under the circumstances we have described, would tend to prepare the way for the reception of the Gospel by their fellow-countrymen; and it was not long afterwards that direct and systematic efforts were made to introduce Methodism into France. When the war was over, which had so long kept the continent of Europe in a state of constant ferment, the missionaries in the Channel Islands turned their attention to the neighbouring coast, where some of their converts were already settled, and where the people generally manifested a willingness to hear the Gospel. In the year 1816, Mr. De Quitteville visited Normandy, and spent several weeks at Beuville, Periere, Conde, and Cherbourg, where he met with a kind reception, and preached to the people with evident tokens of the Divine blessing. Having formed a small society of those who were awakened to a sense of their sinful state, and expressed a sincere desire to flee from the wrath to come, Mr. De Quitteville returned to Guernsey to resume the duties of his own station. In the early part of the following year Messrs. Toase, Olivier, and Le Sueur visited the coast at different times as they could be spared from their circuits, to build up the little flock, and to make known to all who were willing to hear, the way of salvation. Notwithstanding many difficulties and considerable opposition from Popish priests and others, the good work continued to prosper, and neat little chapels were built, first at Periere, and then at Beuville, and other places.

In 1818 arrangements were made for the occupation of several stations on the coast by resident missionaries, with the hope of giving permanence to the work. The following year the Rev. John Hawtrey was appointed to labour in Paris, where he was succeeded, after a considerable interval, during which the station was vacant, by Mr. Cook and others, who prosecuted the work, with varied measures of success, amid many difficulties and discouragements, till, by the blessing of God upon the labours of His servants, it reached its present position of importance and respectability. In 1862 a beautiful new chapel and mission premises were erected in the Rue Roquepine, where religious services are regularly held every Sabbath, and frequently during the week, in French and English, and occasionally in German, for the convenience and benefit of the inhabitants and the