

THE BLESSING OF GOD UPON THE  
PERUSAL OF HIS WORD.

NO. VIII.

We have found for our encouragement in the distribution of the Bible, that the Bible *alone*, without preaching, without visits, has sometimes converted souls, or at least begun the work. This fact may be useful to those Christians who are not of this opinion, and I confess that till lately I was of the number. A young person living near Lyons, one day found a Bible in a friend's house. She borrowed it, took it to her brother's house where she lived; her brother opened the book at the history of Joseph, which delighted him so much, that he continued reading it with a singular interest. "A few weeks afterwards," says he, "I found that I had believed without perceiving which way I got there." He was afterwards visited, but seldom, and it is to the Bible *alone* that he attributes his change. Another person was led to the Bible by the reading of a bad book. He had been in his youth a chanter in the Romish Church, and had had some serious thoughts. Afterwards, engaged in business, he entirely lost them. However, different trials that he had, made him sometimes think of God. Some one lent him some bad books, and amongst others, an infamous work of the last century, the subject of which seems to be to make certain parts of the Bible appear ridiculous, and even improper. This book pleased him so much that it made him wish to see the Bible. One day, being in a house with a member of our church, and hearing him speak with much warmth, he inquired after he was gone what was the subject of the conversation; he was told it was religion, and that Mr. P. was a Protestant. If that be the case, thought he, he must have a Bible; he took his address, and went to borrow the Bible. When he went

to return it, he bought one for himself, and continued reading in a spirit of curiosity. In this way he read the whole of the Old Testament, but when he got to the New, he was touched, and at the same time enlightened as to the errors of Rome. After much hesitation he went to the chapel, and has attended regularly ever since. I thought I discovered a heart upon which the Sun of righteousness has shed his light.—From a *Brief Sketch of the Evangelical Church at Lyons*, by Adolphe Mound, Pastor. *Evang. Mag.*

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THE CHIMNEY SWEEP.

At the close of the year 1836, says a tract visiter in New York, while a boy was sweeping my chimney, I conversed with his master. Ascertaining he had no Bible, and had never read one, I gave him one, on condition that he would read a portion every day. He received it with gratitude, and departed.

During the last month, I again had occasion to call in a sweep. The moment he entered, he exclaimed, "Oh, madam, how glad I am to see you!" This salutation surprised me. "Don't you remember," said he, "the Bible you gave me a long time ago, and the promise I made? I kept my promise, I was convinced that I was a sinner, and the Lord has converted my soul. My wife, seeing the change in me, thought this religion worth possessing—attended church with me—is converted—and now both of us have united with the same church. Oh, how I have tried to find you, to tell you! Bless the Lord for that Bible, and may you be rewarded a hundred fold."

Since that time, three more sweeps have applied for Bibles. I told one man I had not a Bible, but could give him a Testament. "Well," said he, "if that will tell me about Jesus, that will do. I want to be like Tom. Before he got the Bible,