

colporteurs, since the Bible being the one book which they read and to which they appeal, it and those who sell it share the odium under which the sect labours.

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INCIDENTS OF COLPORTAGE IN SOUTHERN RUSSIA.

From F. MULLER'S report :

(1) "At C— I was not allowed to enter the convent, but I saw the Lady-Superior, who bought 50 copies. I read to her Ephesians ii. She thanked me for coming, and promised to speak seriously to all the nuns on verses 8 and 9 of the chapter. She asked me to call the next time I came to the village. The gate-keeper had conducted me to her apartments, and as he led me away he said : 'You are quite right : no one can be saved by good works. I have been gate-keeper here for several years, and I do not feel myself quite happy. One may chastise oneself as one will, but one commits sin nevertheless.'"

(2) "Having received permission, I visited the law courts, where a number of clerks and others are employed. The gentleman who gave me permission was apparently a man of high official rank, and he bought a copy of the Psalms in Russ. On offering my books to a clerk, he replied that he had no time to read ; he had to work all the week, and on Sundays and holidays he liked to rest. I answered that the book which I had for sale told of a rest through Christ, and I asked him whether he had heard of that rest. 'No,' was the reply. Obtaining permission, I read Revelation xxi. to a number of persons standing around. Several Testaments were bought. One gentleman, who took an Svo. Russ Testament, said, 'What touching words are contained in the Holy Scriptures ! It is well that you came here, for I had no intention of possessing myself of a new Testament.'"

(3) "Among the villages east of the Sea of Asov I colported with little success. One hindrance was the poverty in these parts. The people are chiefly fishermen. Last winter the take of fish was very small, and all articles of food became dearer than the oldest people could remember them to have been. The apathy resulting from such adverse circumstances is a great obstacle to colportage. Another is the lamentable ignorance of the Russian people. The master of a house, when I offered my books, exclaimed that the end of the world would soon come now ; that God's Holy Book was so little revered, as to be sold to any one, even women, who ought not to take such a book into their hands. Only the priests, he said, were worthy to open it. He was doubtless one of the extreme orthodox section of the Russo-Greek Church, who hold the ancient Slavonic to be the Holy language, and reject the editions in modern Slavonic and modern Russ as derogatory to the sacred character of God's Word.

"Another man asked me why our books did not contain the table of daily lessons prescribed by the Russian Church, for without it one might happen to read a chapter unsuitable for the day !"

From L. MULLER'S report :

(1) "I visited a Roman Catholic colony where no colporteur had previously been. The colonists said they had never seen Bibles and Testaments before, and they were afraid to buy them, for if they bought and read these books they would be eternally lost. The only books they can use are 'Heaven's Ladder' and the Prayer Book. With great difficulty I sold 8 copies. Two Testaments were brought back to me on the ground that they contained no Catholic prayers. On my showing them the Lord's Prayer, they were retained.

(2) "The Russian priest of — bought over 70 copies, intending on going