

would pray for me which was all he could do. They have gone to the States, and I think it is the only book they possess."

Another collector reports :—" M. B. still wishes to have the loan of the Bible a little longer, until he obtains sufficient work to bring him in a larger amount of wages and enable him to purchase one." Surely the existence of cases like these and those following, which can only be reached by such an Association, afford a strong motive for maintaining with vigour the operations of the Society.

Another collector writes :—" We had a very long conversation with an old woman, whose husband had just died at a very advanced age; on asking the state of his mind before death, she told us that he was quite comfortable, never having injured any one, or spoken ill of his neighbours, and that 'the Clergy' had visited him regularly. We endeavoured to point out to her that the righteousness of Christ was the only true ground for a sinner's hope, but found it difficult to persuade her that any thing more was necessary than simply our own good works." Again, " We found a poor coloured man very ill with consumption, who told us that he had only one Bible and that too small for him to read; we immediately procured one from the Loan Stock for him."

Another collector writes :—" In the next house the only person we saw was a girl about eighteen, who seemed not to know any thing of the Bible; indeed, it was difficult to decide whether or not she had ever heard of it."

Another writes :—" I have a very interesting case in my District, in the person of a very aged woman, who is in feeble health and a great sufferer. She seems very anxious about the salvation of her soul, but quite unable to comprehend the glorious plan of salvation through a crucified Saviour, and cannot believe that so great a sinner as herself has any claim upon his mercy. She always entreats me with great earnestness to pray for her, and says, she will try to pray for herself when her body is not so racked with pain as to absorb all her attention. I believe she is perfectly sincere, and humbly trust that He who causes light to shine out of darkness, will illuminate her heart before He remove her hence. She owned a Bible, but her daughter had lent it to a man who was unwilling to part with it."

Your Committee trust that the importance of maintaining the Association will be recognized by all those who consider these facts, and who set a proper estimate upon the results, which under God's blessing are likely to follow, in some cases at least, of the number supplied by the Society; and although from the scantiness of the reports made by the collectors, it is not possible to state results with reference to more than a few instances, arising from the distribution of Bibles and Testaments; yet your Committee are unwilling to suppose that only in such instances has good been done. Reading the precious Word of Life may like the seed sown be long concealed before it becomes visible above the surface; and when, to this consideration is added the reflection, that the copies of the Scriptures distributed may sometimes be untouched, until sickness or calamity, or some providential event directs attention to them, and that then the finding of the Word of God, may be like the finding of hidden treasure, making rich unto salvation; and when it is also remembered, that one Bible may be the means of opening the eyes not only of the family, to which it is given, but to others connected with that family, it is impossible to deny that so long as there are families to be found unsupplied with the Word of God, so long should the Association continue its labours, and that they should not be discouraged, even though at some periods no sensible results may be traced. Had the Missionaries who carried the Gospel to heathen lands, been driven from their fields of labour, because their labours had continued for years without any apparent influence produced, many lands now enjoying the blessing of Christianity might have been still enveloped in the darkness of idolatry, superstition and heathenism. It becomes us all to adopt such means as are calculated to be