

apparent. In some cases the existence of flourishing churches can be traced to the labours of your colporteurs. One of these, an old and tried man, asked a year before to be sent into "the worst part of France"; he was directed to a district where not a single Protestant was to be found. His success was beyond all expectation; inquirers arose on every hand, and in one village alone a congregation has been formed of 150 persons, who have quitted the Church of Rome.

Already news had begun to come in, through the colporteurs in the provinces, of fruit appearing from the seed sown at the Exhibition; and it is laid upon these workers as a duty to follow up any good impression they may find to have been made. That this special effort has not interfered with the regular work in France is shown by the gratifying fact that the ordinary sales had increased from 75,000 to 98,000.

HOLLAND.

Signs were not wanting to show that the interest taken by this country in the Word of God was on the increase, and the circulation of the Scriptures in the Dutch Agency had steadily advanced to 40,640, or 3,277 more than in 1877. Much of this success is due to the faithful labours of the six colporteurs, who have sold 18,166 copies.

Good old Van Dorp, though in his eighty-seventh year, was carrying on his work at Rotterdam with energy, blessed with untiring zeal and an iron constitution. His hand, indeed, had begun to tremble, but his heart was firm, and he was confirming the faith of many who visited him and who regarded him as a father in the Gospel.

Since the issue of the report, however, this venerable servant of the Lord has entered into his rest. In the monthly Reporter of last February, we find that he died on Sunday, December 28th, 1879.

GERMANY.

The work that had been done in Germany cannot be appreciated without glancing for a moment at the political background to which it presents so agreeable a contrast. The description given by the Society's Agent a year before, of the danger threatened to the State by the growth of the system of Social Democracy was thought by some too dark; but it was not long in receiving painful confirmation.

The excitement caused by the attempts of the Socialists on the Emperor's life had been followed by a calm; but the observant fear that beneath the surface there still works a ferment of anarchic and atheistic opinion; and the best hope for the future of Germany lies in sowing among her forty millions of people the seed of that kingdom which is righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost; and the Socialists themselves recognise that the work of the Bible Society is one of the principal obstacles to their progress. Wonderful elasticity still marked the circulation in this Agency; it had risen by another 20,000 to the very large total of 354,000 copies, of which more than 100,000 were entire Bibles. The 66 colporteurs employed by the Rev. G. Palmer Davies are a body of men of whom any society might feel proud. Some of them are themselves the fruit of Bible work. One often relates how he himself owes his religious life indirectly to the labours of one of his brethren. A colporteur entered his mother's house, spoke seriously with her, persuading her to buy a Bible; and the new religious life of the family, ending in the conversion of several of its members, began with the entrance of that Bible into the house, and they in turn are the means of "committing the Word to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."