

it difficult to eke out leisure to give an account of our progress. Eternity will give the best and fullest disclosures, and then more will come to light of the fruit of the Word than any of us know or think—of this I am persuaded ; but I am fully aware of the propriety and necessity of giving, even while yet the swift course of time runs on, some report of the things—some passing strange—that we are permitted to behold in these countries. I will then attempt a few jottings.

"Whilst I have been on foot the larger part of the last two or three months, the issues at the depôts have gone on as rapidly as ever. The current quarter will undoubtedly show some considerable increase again.

"I was in Bohemia just at the time of the last tremendous floods. Anything more appalling than the devastation created within the space of a few hours—minutes, one might almost say—eye has not seen. The finest hop-fields, extending over hundreds of acres, have been ruined for years, houses mown down, whole villages washed away, huge railway viaducts, built for an eternity, reduced to ruins, and, what is more serious than all, hundreds of precious lives lost. The eye looks in vain for the mighty torrents that have caused this devastation ; nothing is seen but here and there a brooklet purling away placidly and innocently. But in that dread night the fountains of the great deep seem to have broken up, the windows of heaven were opened, darkness and death were sent forth, and the havoc they made is awful to behold. I was fearfully reminded of the days of the deluge, and of the solemn warning, 'So shall the coming of the Son of Man be.'

"It would have given me pleasure to have had to ask the Committee for their sanction for a gratuitous supply of Scriptures among the sufferers, but we have not generally met with much sympathy in that direction. In the personal representations made to the Governor of the Province on the subject, he evidently failed to descry the connection between a dilapidated house and a New Testament. We tried to remove his objections by referring to the war of 1866, and the Scriptures then circulated in Bohemia and elsewhere among the military. This so far helped the matter on, that he promised to think over the proposal made by us, but he seems to have stuck fast by the way in the depth of his thoughts. No notice has been further taken. He may have asked for light in quarters where nothing is more admired than the darkness of Rome. We have thought of a circulation through the local committees, but we have at once been warned off by the parish priest, who generally is the chairman, or at least the prompter. Personal direct gratuitous distribution would have made us offenders of the law ; and so we have on all sides been reminded of the painful fact that in this country the system of the papacy yet has the sway.

"A more pleasing occurrence every way was a meeting convened in a Bohemian village, under the auspices of the Moravian Brethren, of a number of persons engaged in the Gospel-field—in fact, a May-meeting in Bohemia ! I was one of the invited ones, and either on the Pauline principle that in managing things pertaining to this life those that were least should be set up to judge, or from a desire to give a grateful testimony to the importance of the Bible Society's labours, I was required in the public meetings to take the chair. We had two public meetings and two confidential ones, in all of which the one grand topic was how the interests of the kingdom of God could be best advanced. Originally the meetings were intended only for a select few, and of these some were detained, not by their will, but by adverse circumstances ; but the people came flocking in, and compelled us to overstep our limits ; and even though we began at 9 a.m., and kept on, with necessary interruptions, until 4.30 p.m., the crowd would not stir. When it was 10 at night we had to use some soft compulsion to make the multitude move homeward. Some of the Bohemians present have an extraordinary gift of speech.

"On the following day, I had a conference with all the colporteurs from Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia.

"Useful work was done at all these meetings ; and when, as the eldest in