

to use it, would her enemies feel the same lofty contempt for such an instrumentality? Oh, no! Paganism in China employs the tract, and adorns it too, to make it a more welcome messenger of heathenish lore. Vice and infidelity in the midst of Christian communities ply the same agency with fearful success, scattering pestilential pages in the path of the unwary and the reckless. And Popery—does it not press the tract into its service? Yes, the Jesuits have their series of cunningly devised tractates, in many languages, to “blind the minds of them who believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.” Verily, “the children of this world would,” in this respect, “be wiser in their generation than the children of light,” if the church had not its Tract Societies.

In presenting this Sixteenth Report, your Committee are thankful that they have good reason to believe that the Society is gaining both in usefulness and in public support—that its cords are lengthened and its stakes are strengthened. Wherefore let its friends thank God and take courage.

#### COLPORTAGE.

In last year's Report it was noticed that a commencement had been made by this Society in this important and now indispensable department in the labors of a Tract Society. The success attending our first attempt was such as to encourage us to enter more largely in the work in the year 1851. At the first Committee meeting after

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