

never part from it any more.' She thanked me again and again, and thanked God, too, that she now had a Bible of her own.

"IN THE TOWN.

"In accordance with your instructions I one day last week noted every house I visited, and every grown-up person to whom I offered my books. In 11 working hours I visited 38 houses, in which there were 156 dwellings, 9 workshops, 2 yards, where people were occupied, and 2 unfinished houses. I offered my books to about 280 persons. Of the reception I met with and the answers I received I can speak positively as to the following. Five families had Bibles and read them. Three families were those of advanced Christians. Eleven families had no Bibles, and if they had would have no time to read them. They had only time for work and gain! They had no need of, and no wish for, God's Word! One man said: 'Bring me your Bibles when I am dead; in life they are not necessary.' In 8 dwellings I had to bear the brunt of Socialistic scorn and hate. Sometimes I was told, 'if you but had Lassalle's books' (Lassalle is the prophet of the Social Democrats). Thirteen times the people said, 'Religion has been abolished, the Registrar's Office is now everything' (baptism and marriage in church were obligatory, recent legislation has made them optional). Twice brandy, not the Bible, was asked for. Four times I was told to come again. Six times the people were really too poor. Five persons said they would have bought Bibles had they contained the Apocryphal books. One workman said he had torn his Bible to pieces and flung it on the dung-hill. In all other cases all I could hear was that the people did not want a Bible. Whether they had Bibles or not I cannot tell. On that day I only sold three copies."

Another contrast is presented by the same house and people on two occasions, the second time under altered circumstances.

"Last September I entered a house where I found the family in deep distress. Their rent was high, two months of it were due, and the landlord was a hard man. All had been prepared by them to carry off the furniture stealthily by night, and leave the apartment empty. 'This is not right,' I said. 'Have you never thought of God? He made heaven and earth, and the morning star, and can send you help or soften your landlord's heart.' They were impressed with what I said, and bought the cheapest Testament I had.

"Six months later I entered the house again. As soon as the woman saw me she ran to call her husband. 'How often we have talked of you,' he said. 'Now all goes well with us, for you taught us to turn to God. But for you, who knows what would have become of us! Walk in.' And so I was compelled to take coffee with them. They are diligent readers of the Scriptures. They could not cease thanking me. 'You owe me no thanks,' I said; 'thank God.'"

A third contrast, between conditions outwardly similar, but by a great gulf divided, is thus described:—

POVERTY WITHOUT THE BIBLE.

"Poverty and want are very general, and are also accompanied only too often by open and avowed unbelief. In one dwelling I found three rooms occupied by four families. In a kitchen I found a woman and two children. The whole furniture was a bench, a footstool, and a bedstead without bedding. On straw, in this bedstead, the woman lay ill. I spoke to her of the Saviour, but she did not care to listen. Her heart was very hard, and her spirit bitter."

POVERTY WITH THE BIBLE.

"I entered another dwelling in another part of the city. I found a woman at a washing-tub. I offered her a Bible. She burst into tears. 'The Bible,'