

THE SALE OF THE SCRIPTURES.

One of the colporteurs has sold during the year 19 Bibles (authorized version), 17 Douay Bibles, and 386 Douay Testaments. Another sold 555 Douay Testaments, some of which were disposed of in convents, others in chapels and in chapel yards. Another sold 70 Bibles and 104 Douay Testaments. Besides the sale of the Scriptures and other religious books, they have done much evangelistic work. Such are the reports which they give, and which, from knowledge otherwise obtained, we can guarantee as true.

The explanation of their success is not far to seek. They go with love and respect in their heart; as one of them says, he knows that many Roman Catholics earnestly seek after holiness, but they are uncertain how to find it. With a respect for the people in their hearts, they avoid giving offence; they do not go attacking even their prejudices, but they offer them God's blessed Word for sale, and leave it to work its own way.

Nor does it fail to make its power felt. The Reformation lay hid in an old Bible which a monk found in a library. A colporteur informs us of a man who has lately left the Church of Rome, and who now worships with a pious Episcopalian minister, and the man attributes his change to a Douay Testament which he bought of the colporteur three years ago. Two other colporteurs state that a man whom they know has given up his old views and now is thoroughly evangelical, and apparently an earnest believer in Christ. Another states that in his district during the past year the process of drawing people out of their old system has advanced, and as our great effort is to do good to souls, we are glad to learn that there are evidences of this, and that more of the people are reading the Scriptures than is commonly supposed.

Some of the incidents are worthy of being mentioned. For example:—The colporteur is reading Scripture to the goodman, when the wife orders him out. He does not seem to hear her, and soon he asks the man if they may have prayer together. Yes, says the other, for whoever you be, you are good. The woman rushes out of the room, closing the door after her, but the prayer was loud enough to be overheard by her, and when it ends, the room door is ajar, and she is listening. Since then the colporteur has often called at the same house, and she is glad enough to see him. Other incidents of a similar kind shall be given in the *Friend of Ireland*, which can be obtained *gratis* from the depots of the Bible and Colportage Society.

HOPE FOR IRELAND.

We are cheered in our hope for Ireland by the experience of our colporteurs. Their work is no longer a mere experiment. The great difficulty in our way is that we have not enough money to develop the work, or even to sustain it at its present rate. We hope our readers will think on this and act. If you are ministers or elders, send for the *Friend of Ireland* and some collecting cards, and first decide what you can do yourself. If you are Sabbath school teachers, or whatever be your post in the vineyard, help the colporteurs, help to circulate the Scriptures, help to tell our fellow-countrymen in their own homes of the love of Jesus; and pray for a blessing on our efforts in this direction. We have a dozen excellent men applying to be appointed colporteurs; and if a dozen Christian people or congregations raise each as much as will sustain one of these, we can promise them an open door and full employment.