

## HOW THE NEW TESTAMENT CONQUERED.



ROMAN Catholic priest, in a village near Morlaix, France, warned his flock that he had power to give absolution to any of them who might be guilty of theft, lying, or any other sin; but if any of them were guilty of reading the New Testament he could not absolve them.

In the audience was a young man, who, from his violent conduct was the terror of the village, even his parents having to defend themselves against their son. This young man hearing the priest's statement, said to himself, "I have committed all the sins the priest has mentioned, yet he will give me absolution for all if I do not read the Book. What kind of a book can this be? I am going to get one and read it."

When he went to the colporteur, the man, knowing his character, at first refused, thinking he was jesting, but when he saw that he was in earnest and explained his reasons he gave him one. A few days afterward his mother said,

"How is it that Jean is so quiet and sober lately? he is never drunk and retires to his own room after dinner." The father replied, "I don't know but I will follow him."

The next day, going quietly to the door of his son's room, he found him intently reading a book. He returned and told the mother,

"He is in his room reading some book; I believe it is a New Testament." She replied,

"If that is all the harm the New Testament is doing, ask him to come and read it to us."

He came and did so. God blessed the reading to the father, mother, and lastly to himself. The mother sent to the missionary, saying,

"I will take the furniture out of one of my rooms, and place chairs in it, if you will come and read the Word of God to the neighbors and tell them, though the priest refuses to give them absolution, God has forgiven us, and will also forgive them."

The missionary did so, and God blessed the telling of the old, old story to many souls.

Some time after this the mayor sent for the missionary, and said,

"I don't know how it is, but when the Bible went into that house, it was the pest of the village, but now it is the paradise of the place."

This proves that the Word of God is still "quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Heb. iv. 12.—*London Christian Herald*.

## WAR AND ITS COSTS.

The cost of the Mexican war was \$66,000,000.

The total number of men in the world's navies is 237,000.

In the last 200 years France has spent £993,000,000 in war.

The engines of the first-class man-of-war cost nearly \$700,000.

In less than 300 years Great Britain alone has spent £1,359,000,000 in war.

The French army costs every year 675,000,000 francs; the navy 203,000,000.

The peace footing of the Russian army calls for the service of 170,000 horses.

The annual cost of the British army is £17,000,000; of the navy, £14,000,000.

Austria spends every year 15,000,000 florins on the army.

During the retreat from Moscow the French lost, or threw away, over 60,000 muskets.

The wars of the last 70 years have cost Russia \$335,000,000 and the lives of 664,000 men.

Italy spends every year 14,000,000 lire on her army and navy.

At Waterloo there were 145,000 men on both sides, of whom 51,000 were killed or disabled.

The annual army expenditure of Greece is 18,000,000 drachma. A drachma is about 20 cents.

It is estimated that the world's cannon has cost the world's tax-payers a little over \$400,000,000.

The estimated cost on both sides of the great civil war of the United States was \$6,500,000,000.—*See*.