

full information, we refer to an abstract of the Parent Society's Report published in the Appendix.

In France, during the year just ended, 120,644 copies of the Holy Scriptures have been circulated, being more by upwards of 11,000 than the number circulated during the preceding year. Of the number just mentioned, 45,293 copies were distributed among French soldiers proceeding to the seat of war; the total number of copies put into the hands of French soldiers since August, 1854, being not less than 65,112. The work of colportage is carried on to a large extent in France, and with the happiest results, the reading of the Word alone being, in not a few instances, rendered effectual, by the blessing of God, for the conversion of souls:—

The following extracts illustrate the labors of the colporteurs. On the disposition of the population among whom they carry on their labors, M. de Pressensé writes:—

“I shall be on my guard against representing matters in too flattering a light, for it would at once be objected that the vast majority of Frenchmen continue to be evidently plunged in all the superstitions of Popery, and more especially in a desolating infidelity. This is true, but what is not less so is, that the word of God is being diffused in a manner which has an important signification—it is *purchased*—and that the £1,280 of which I have before spoken, has been spent by Romanists in order to procure the Holy Scriptures. These undeniable facts do not as yet prove that the masses of the French nation are disentangling themselves from the meshes of Popery. By no means; but do they not show that, notwithstanding, there is a portion (a small one, if you will) of the people who are disgusted with the religious yoke which is being attempted to be fastened on them with more rigor than ever, and who in proportion as they see the pretensions and influence of the priests increasing, draw nearer and nearer to the Bible, in order to find therein the weapons of which they feel they stand in need against their spiritual adversaries, who are striving more and more to bring them into bondage? I firmly believe that the Lord is carrying on a good, though at present hidden, work among the Catholics in France. To make use of a simile, the present moment may be compared to the period when the seed is cast into the earth: the field which has received it will continue to have the appearance of sterility until the time when the seed, after having germinated, though without the eye of man having been able to follow this process, shoots forth in due season, and finally becomes that ear-crowned plant which amply repays the husbandman for all his pains, and for all his patient expectations.

“My voluminous correspondence with the Committee is filled with facts proving that the dissemination of the Scriptures is every year followed by various most gratifying results. What numbers of souls have been converted by this means! what numbers of new churches founded! Have I not elsewhere most abundantly shown that all that during the last twenty-five years has been accomplished, and this with an ever increasing energy, for the advancement of the kingdom of God in France, takes its origin in the Bible work, and more especially in the work carried on by the British and Foreign Bible Society?”