

mass.' 'I cannot thank you sufficiently for having brought me the book.' 'I read it until late at night.' 'How long I have been wishing to have a Bible!' 'Why, that is the Bible; of course I must have that.' 'Ah! if all men only had that book, it would be better.' 'Had I known this precious book before, it would have been better for me.'

ITALY.—In their Report for last year, your Committee remarked that no rapid progress could be discerned in the mighty work of rousing in Italy a deeper and truer religious feeling than existed in the days of repression and oppression, of alien rule and Papal supremacy.

Their information leads to the same disappointing conclusion this year. Still, with rare exceptions, the rich, and the noble, and the educated refuse to lament to our mourning, or to dance to our piping. Godly sorrow and Gospel joy alike leave them unmoved. This deadly atmosphere, like its type in the natural world, broods especially over Rome. It is rich and increased with goods, rich in art, rich in history, rich with the spoils of time, but all the while to the spiritual eye it is poor, and wretched, and miserable and blind, and naked. 'Even the colporteurs,' says Mr. Bruce, 'think it quite a wonder if they sell a Bible to a Roman.'

Nevertheless your Committee have the pleasure to report a total of 56,000 copies, an increase of 6,000 upon last year's result, and that, too, in a year of bad harvests, of terrible inundations, and of unusual snowstorms blocking up the roads. Whither, then, has these copies gone? The answer is—they have gone into remote villages, into small towns, into the hands of the poor, the simple, the laborious. They have been carried thither upon the shoulders of men as simple and as laborious as themselves. More than three-fifths of the circulation have been thus disposed of, and no man can read the journals of these itinerant labourers without feeling that they have been, and still are, the very truest evangelists at work in that land. One incident of a very comforting character came to light last year. In 1871 a maritime exhibition was held at Naples, and a considerable distribution of Scriptures took place. This work was noticed in your Committee's Report for 1872, and the remark is there made that the distribution was not very 'discriminating,' many of the copies being immediately torn up. One of your colporteurs last year during his labours at Naples met with