

upon these workers as a duty to follow up any good impression they may find to have been made. That this special effort has not interfered with the regular work in France, is shown by the gratifying fact that the ordinary sales have increased from 75,000 to 98,000.

**BELGIUM.**—Large supplies of Portions which were drawn in 1877 were not required last year; hence the circulation stands at 14,444 in place of 18,875. The importance of making the people familiar with the Scriptures may be shown by giving an idea of the religious literature which their teachers at present provide for them.

There is a small monthly publication, called the 'Propagator of the Rosary,' which has a large circulation; its object is to promote the 'devotion of the Rosary,' and to make it 'more enlightened.' A selection of anecdotes is given to show the blessings which may be obtained through the Virgin. They tell how a sprain is cured by using the water of consecrated roses; and how an infusion of rose-leaves restores to health a dying child. In 1864, there were six persons entered on the list of the Association of the Rosary; now there are nearly 58,000.

Thus is religion rendered contemptible by being reduced to a mechanical repetition of prayers, a belief in the spiritual efficacy and healing powers of relics and objects consecrated to the Virgin, and the substitution of a material Mariolatry for the worship of God in spirit and in truth.

The sales of the seven colporteurs have been 8,382 copies. The new Flemish translation of St. Matthew has been published, while alternative readings are being prepared for the standard Flemish New Testament and for the French version of DeSacy.

**HOLLAND.**—Signs are not wanting to show that the interest taken by this country in the Word of God is on the increase. Your representative at Amsterdam reports that the people are becoming weary of the novelties and subtleties of the rationalistic teachers, and manifest a desire to return to the good old paths. In the Reformed Church the services of the Evangelical pastors are largely attended, while the frigid and critical views of the opposite party find but few sympathisers. At the present moment there are more than two hundred vacancies in the churches where ministers of the former type are in demand.