

now carrying on by those of our Colporteurs, who are specially entrusted with the dissemination of the Scriptures among the men in the French army. Those of our friends who concentrate their efforts on the three or four camps in which our various regiments are successively stationed for a longer or shorter period of time, have hit upon the excellent and Christian idea, after having spent the whole of the day with their wallet on their backs, in visiting the soldiers in their tents, of inviting to their lodgings in the immediate vicinity of the camps, those who may be unable to read (the number of whom among the recruits from the country districts is indeed very considerable), and are desirous of being taught. These invitations have been so eagerly accepted, that every evening our friends are surrounded by thirty, forty, and at times even fifty pupils, engaged in spelling the verses of the New Testament, the only reading-book which is used. These exercises are frequently interrupted by a familiar but earnest explanation by the presiding teacher of some verse or other which has been previously spelled through, and which happens to contain some fundamental truth or some practical lesson. So far from being offended or repulsed by such an exceptional method of instruction, the greater number of the pupils evidently like it, and are constantly giving evidence of their wish to become more thoroughly acquainted with matters relating to religion by accompanying their amateur schoolmasters on the Sunday, to the Protestant services which are held in the neighbourhood of the camps. And to this I would at once add, that more significant and infinitely more gladdening results have flowed from these meetings, which may be suitably designated Bible meetings, and they have been made the means of conversion to some of those who have attended them. The number of these, I admit, is not very large; but it is large enough, nevertheless, to assure us that the blessing of the Lord will rest with still greater abundance on the humble efforts to which He has already been pleased to vouchsafe so much encouragement."

In Belgium 12,781 copies of the Scriptures were circulated the past year. One half of these nearly have been disposed of by six Colporteurs employed for longer or shorter periods of the year. Infidelity on the one hand, and Romanism on the other, both oppose the circulation of the Divine Word. Opposition and insult not unfrequently obstruct the Colporteur. Still there is an improvement in this respect. Referring to one Colporteur laboring in Belgium the Report says:

When Gazan went, three years ago, to live at Louvain, he had considerable difficulty in finding a house where they would take him in. It is pleasant to know that such annoyances have ceased, and that he lives on good terms with his landlord and fellow-lodgers, notwithstanding his being a Bible Colporteur, and that his windows are now ornamented with a number of pots of flowers given to him at different times in the course of his colportage, as a mark of regard and respect. This is a trifling thing to mention, but it is still a sign of a change of feeling with regard to the Scriptures, and those who sell them, which, we may hope, will not be confined to the town and environs of Louvain. Gazan has to answer the same oft repeated objections about the nature of his Books. Those who call them bad Books have no other proofs to give than that their priests

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