

Church and her offices, alike in infancy, marriage and death. The Report, however, presents the other side of the picture, and furnishes instances of that persecuting spirit which starts up in the Romish communion whenever the check is removed : if fewer examples are given of the unseemly behaviour of the priests towards those who sell or read the Scriptures, it is not because the offence is removed, but because the story has been so often told. Would, however, that the intelligence of the people, recoiling from that blending of assumption with credulity which too often marks the ministers of the Church of Rome, threw itself into the camp of such as acknowledge Christ Jesus as their one Priest and King, and appeal to the open Word of God as arbiter of the strife. Unhappily the rebound is more violent, and blank infidelity is embraced and even exalted into a religious system.

By these giant foes then, priestcraft and rationalism, all other difficulties are dwarfed, and while manfully grappling with them, the colporteurs forget to speak of rough roads, rougher fare, and usage roughest of all. But with the magnitude of the obstacles should rise the resolution of the disciples of Christ in His strength to overcome them ; and instead of arguing that Germany is a Protestant country and able to provide for her wants, the fact should be realized that a large proportion of her people are hostile to the Bible, and that the present is pre-eminently a time for pressing home the living Word on those who have put it from them in scorn or fear. While speaking cordially of the German Bible Societies, Mr. Davies says :—

“ They do not feel as we do the responsibility which rests on those who possess the Bible, and regard it as the Book of the people, to circulate it among those who are members of another creed and who do not regard it in this light. The work among Romanists is left almost exclusively to us. Some Bible Societies are even prevented by their laws and regulations from taking part in this work.”

It is pleasant to know that these German Societies reciprocate the kindly feeling cherished towards them by our Parent Society. The German Societies have together circulated 210,000 copies, and the British and Foreign Bible Society, 300,000, so that over half a million copies of the sacred Word are distributed annually amongst a population estimated at 42,000,000. Thus, as Mr. Davies observes :

“ Bad in many respects as the state of things in Germany, religiously speaking, is, the Bible is still a mighty power among the people, and does its blessed work of doctrine, reproof, correction and instruction in righteousness. In the land of Luther the influence of Luther's Bible is not extinct.”

DENMARK.

Although this country is as well supplied with the Scriptures as any part of the Continent, the demand is still considerable ; the children and domestic servants are clamorous for Bibles of their own. The sales from the Copenhagen depot have been 25,164 copies, of which 8,935 have been taken round by colporteurs, and sold in remote country districts as well as in the towns.

SWEDEN.

The accounts which reached the Committee early last year led them to anticipate an increase in the Swedish issues ; but it was not till its close that they learnt how decided that increase had been. Great surprise was expressed so far back as the year 1862, when 93,000 copies were distributed by the Agency ; for at that time, among a population of less than 4,000,000, the Society had circulated 1,306,816 copies, and the Swedish Bible Society