

THE BIBLE COLPORTEUR IN QUEBEC.

"The population of the Province of Quebec is about one million and a quarter. The quarter million is Protestant, and the one million Roman Catholic, and the percentage of Roman Catholics is greater in proportion in our city than in the Province as a whole. . . ."

"We have, in all these beautiful valleys that lie around us in such rich profusion, a vast population, an interesting race of people, whose chief industry is agriculture, in most instances on a very humble scale; and wherever there is a population there is also a parish church and priest, and in many instances a convent, but no Bibles! There is a Bible, but it is in the parish church, and not in the homes of the people. The priest may know the Bible, but the people cannot know it, because it is to them a forbidden book, a bad book, a book that makes Protestants, a book whose teachings none can understand except the priest! And so, everywhere the people, among whom we live and whom we should love, are taught from earliest childhood that our Holy Bible is a book more fit for the fire than the family; and we are truly sorry that this should be so, for our Holy Bible is after all not a bad book, but the revealed will of God, and contains the truth on which the Church is built, and which alone can save the soul. It was this belief which led to the formation of the Quebec Auxiliary of British and Foreign Bible Society, which seeks through colportage to place a copy of the Holy Scriptures in every French-Canadian home. . . ."

"One day as the Colporteur trudges along with his sack of books, seeking a purchaser, he stops, knocks at a door, enters, gives the usual greeting, gets into conversation with the family, and offers the New Testament for sale; then the people curse him and thrust him out of doors, books and all! Another day he is stopped on the road by a *cure*, and is asked by him, "Are you the man that goes around here selling bad books?" He replies, "I am selling books, but they are not bad books. I sell the Holy Scriptures! See! here is the book I sell," handing him a New Testament to examine; but the *cure* will not touch it, declaring that it is bad, and only leads to what is bad! The *cure* then says, "Do you know that I have the power to place you in jail for daring to

dispose of these bad books in my parish?" The Colporteur closes the interview by assuring the *cure* that it would be a real pleasure to go to jail for selling the Holy Bible to the people; and off goes the *cure* in high dudgeon."

"Our agent is often footsore and weary, hungry, cold, and disappointed, too, as he goes from place to place. People are afraid to have the book in the house; but some of them are very much more afraid to give food and shelter to the man who goes about selling what they call "the bad book." But this work of selling the Bible has its bright as well as its dark side. For instance, he enters a house, and, while conversing with the family and showing his books, two nuns enter, to whom he shows the books also, and urges them to buy. They pronounce the book to be good, but they cannot purchase, but assure him that by calling at the convent the *Econome* would purchase many copies."

"Found two copies of the New Testament, which show signs of having been read, in one house, and the family refused to give them up to the priest;" so he writes. "Sat up till midnight with the family and some neighbours reading the Word of God and conversing with them, and had prayer with them before retiring. Sold them a copy of the Word of God." This he writes on another occasion: "It is through these readings, conversations, and prayers with the families that souls are brought to a saving knowledge of the truth. God ever blesses His own Word."—*Bible Society Monthly Reporter*.

HOW THE LIGHT SPREADS.

"Surely the gospel is penetrating the dark places of China and Siam. Nearly 253,000 copies of the Scriptures have been circulated in these two countries by the American Bible Society, according to their April Report. The number of Bibles issued during the year was 1,032,672, not including those sent to foreign countries. The total cash receipts for the year foot up to \$613,373. The Bible complete in Japanese has recently been printed in Yokohama. A copy was brought forward at the meeting of the Bible Society managers. A letter was presented from Rev. Mr. Loomis, which spoke of the large demand for these books. 1,600 copies of the Old Testament having been called for within thirty days of its issue."