

EXTRACTS FROM THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY'S REPORT.

GERMANY.

Mr. Davies, with a tinge of disappointment, describes his year of work as having "opened in sunshine and closed in cloud."

The task of reducing the expenses of his Agency has been an unwelcome task. To raise the prices of his editions, to lessen the number of his colporteurs, when the work was prospering and the men ready to go forth, were duties loyally but not willingly done. But the Committee were the first to feel the pain, and theirs was the responsibility.

THE COLPORTEURS.—The German Colporteurs, sixty strong, have had a hard year's work, and in addition to the depressed state of industry have had to contend with the severest winter known for years. A heavy knapsack carried along over roads deep with snow, requires a vigorous frame and a light heart beneath it, or the journey will soon end. Of twenty-nine colporteurs attached to the Berlin District, thirteen have been more or less laid aside.

Of the spirit which actuates these men, the following pathetic letter is an interesting manifestation. It is written by ex-colporteur Orłowski, and is given in his own words:—

"When one had been thirty years at Bible work you can understand that it had become a second nature. I feel so wretched. Had my good wife been still with me I might feel better off. But she is gone, and my work is gone, and much else is gone. What remains is a broken-down body. May God soon take me home! I was delighted with the reports. But when I read them I have no rest within the four walls of my home. I cannot range the land with my Bibles, so I rush out into the open field to get breathing-room, so strong is the memory. Whenever you write, every line is precious. If I were thirty years younger I would begin the work over again, and choose by preference the very hardest fields. But it is of no use. I will write every three months. If you do not hear, you will know that either I am ill or dead."

The extracts given by Mr. Davies from the colporteurs' reports are exceedingly interesting, and from them the Committee select the following: the first two in order to describe colportage in the country and colportage in the town. The contrast is sharp and painful.

"IN THE COUNTRY.

"I came to the Castle of F——. Outside the walls I found a house, apparently uninhabited. I went in and found a man chopping wood. 'It is good,' said he 'that you have come again, for you are wanted. The sentinel has orders to tell you what to do.' I was sent on to the Castle, where I met a warm welcome. The matron loves God's Word. The servants were at once summoned, and soon stood in a circle round me and my knapsack. The matron recommended my books, and spoke warmly of what the Bible is, or ought to be for us all. It was quite a little Bible meeting. The matron spoke; I spoke; all listened attentively. It was a most blessed hour. There was scarcely one of those present who left without having at least bought a Testament.

"From the castle I went to an out-house. On the lower floor I found no one. On the upper floor there was a maid at work. 'Have you a Bible?' 'No, but I am longing for one, for I have never had one since I left school.' She took the Bible, looked at it, rejoiced over it with most touching manifestations of joy. 'Now at last I have it; I have it,' she said, 'and will