

ble hovel, part of which was already in ruins, intimated before hand that it was the abode of wretchedness and suffering, and that the consolations of the Gospel were greatly needed there. He had scarcely lifted the latch of the door when he found his anticipations fully confirmed. An icy wind whistling through the ruptured walls penetrated the place on every side, and in short every thing bespoke the most deplorable destitution. In the midst of the apartment he found a female seated, whose countenance betrayed the impress of desolation and the deepest sorrow. The Colporteur lost no time in communicating to her the object of his visit. The poor woman seemed at first thunderstruck at the idea that a total stranger should come from a distance to offer comfort to one like herself, who was forsaken of all the world. Then, adverting to her lamentable situation and to the increasing difficulties of the times, she groaned aloud, and even spoke of being abandoned by God. It is needless here to repeat the address of the Christian friend who visited her, or to quote the consolatory passages in holy writ, which he read aloud to her, and in which the Lord speaks to all who are weary and heavy laden, and draw nigh to him as such. The poor woman listened and inquired,—inquired and listened again. A traveller asserts that by drinking largely of the refreshing waters in the desert, thirst is excited; so, the more the female here spoken of tasted how sweet and how good was the word of the Lord, the more anxious did she become to possess it. In her case, it may be supposed, that the Colporteur was previously determined to present her, at his own expense, with a copy of the New Testament, which she was utterly unable to pay for. All he did was to abstain from urging it upon her, and to require the conviction, that the person to whom he spoke, and who till then had thought of nothing beyond a temporal subsistence, actually felt the necessity of feeding upon the Bread of Life. Nor was it long before his hope was realized. The poor woman, after declaring in the most energetic terms, that she could not possibly do without a New Testament, added, 'But I have certainly no right to expect a copy of you for nothing, seeing that it would be robbing you of what does not belong to you, and the loss of which you must yourself make good. This would be exceedingly