

BIBLE TRIUMPHS IN MEXICO.

A STIRRING story of Bible conflict is given in the Bible Society Reporter from a colporteur in Mexico, which illustrates the difficulties that lie in the way of our work of French Evangelization. As is well known, one of the great obstacles in this work, is the prejudice that exists with regard to Protestants, their life, their religion, and their Bible, and when once this prejudice is broken down, and their false ideas of Protestantism dispelled, the Bible, satisfying as it does the longings of the hungry human heart, will surely win its own way. The colporteur was in a town on the border of Guatemala. He says:

In the week devoted to the worship of the *Virgen Dolores*, the clergy of Tuxtla Chico had announced my coming in the usual way: "A Protestant bishop is coming with a book called the Holy Bible, which is false and evil, as it speaks against the Pope, the Virgin, the saints, Christ, the *curas*, and our religion. This book must not be bought; you must 'run' that man out of the town or the penalty is 'excommunication.'" As usual, the man with whom I lodged, asked me to "go," for fear of an attack on his house.

It was not long before a group of sixty people gathered about the house, threatening to beat me and cast me out of the town. I was quite lame and could not escape. While I was praying for help, they held council, and then eight men entered the courtyard and ordered my immediate departure.

But noticing among the eight, one of venerable aspect, of sixty years, at least, the leader, I addressed him: "I am sorry my good friend, that you have been deceived in regard to the character of the book that I bring. This book contains the truth of God in its purity. If there is one here who can read, let him examine it; if it is as bad as you are told it is, we will burn it and I will go." This seemed fair to the old man, and he called to Richard, his nephew, saying, "It is only just that we should read the book first." A young man of eighteen came forward, took the book, and read correctly and with clear voice from the first chapter of Luke.

The crowd without, hearing him, pressed into the courtyard, a hundred people or more, all giving respectful attention when they saw one of their number reading. When he reached the forty-second verse, a voice cried, "But that is not the book of which the *cura* spoke." I answered that it was the only book that I came to offer them, the various sizes being due to the size of the letter, and that they had been misinformed regarding the book, doubtless, to keep them in ignorance of the real simplicity of the Christian gospel. They seemed to be drawn towards the book, and when the young man stopped reading again, I began to read and recommend the Bible, and continued for an hour.

Richard bought the first Bible, the one he had read from, and I sold ten large Bibles and a number of small ones, then and there, and we talked of the Bible till ten o'clock at night. Some of the more enthusiastic proposed that I should hold a public discussion with the *cura*, on Sunday, the 3d of April. I prepared and waited; but before the hour arrived, I learned that the *cura* had gone suddenly to Zapachula. The gospel triumphed again!

The Christian's life, in business, pleasure, &c., should preach the gospel.

At the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of England in Birmingham, April 29th, the reports of the year shewed solid and steady progress. The expenditure of the year for Foreign Missions was about \$105,000, leaving a balance Dr. of about \$5,000.

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