

because they were willing to give to the collectors when asked, and preferred becoming subscribers for a Bible or Testament to becoming free contributors.

Your Committee trust that even in these cases, especially when age had enfeebled the sight, and the place of the old Bible now comparatively useless had never been supplied by a new one, and in these cases where conversations with the collectors may have aroused the attention of the parties applied to, the word of God which is quick and powerful may not have been uselessly distributed, but that it may have been frequently blessed for good to those who have received it.

There is another class to whom the labours of your Committee and the collectors are especially calculated to be beneficial, consisting of those who living in a state of ignorance or indifference as to divine things, and either having never received any religious instruction, or having lost any impressions ever made upon them, have become estranged from all that is good, and are destitute of a copy of the Scriptures. It has been the fate of the collectors to meet with persons of this character, who have yet when urged become subscribers, but who would never have been reached by a Society with operations differently conducted. The mode of payment by weekly subscriptions as small as the subscriber chooses has something in it that is tempting, and enables many to purchase who would never do so if required to make payment in any other manner.

When it is considered that the reading of the Holy Book is one of the surest means of arresting the attention of the unawakened sinner, and that the humbler classes seldom possess many books, and are therefore more likely to read the Bible when they purchase one. Your Committee feel that there is good ground for expressing a hope and confidence that much good will flow from the Bibles distributed through the agency of the collectors.

Your Committee have not the necessary materials for making classification of the subscribers upon which reliance could be placed, but they are satisfied that in a very large number of cases the parties who subscribe are those who stand much in need of spiritual instruction, and who may reasonably be expected to receive benefit from the possession of the great source from which that instruction is derived. Amongst others, your Committee are gratified to be able to state, that there are some Roman Catholics who are subscribers for Bibles and Testaments, in addition to others of the same religion, who are free contributors, and others who have been supplied with Bibles from the loan stock, of which your Committee will presently say a few words.

Your Committee have during the year delivered to subscribers 95 Bibles or Testaments, and by their list it appears that there are still 173 more subscribed for, and not yet delivered because not yet wholly paid for. In addition to these, 38 persons have been supplied from the Loan Stock of the Society, which it is perhaps unnecessary to explain, is a stock set apart for the purpose of supplying those whose circumstances do not enable them to purchase. To such persons it is considered preferable to make loans rather than absolute gifts, inasmuch as persons are much more likely to value books so received and to read them, and can be more frequently and readily addressed by the collectors on the subject of religion. But your Committee have in no case deemed it proper to ask for a return of the book so loaned.

Your Committee have good reason to believe that the books thus loaned have never been given except when a disposition to read them has been manifested, and that they have been received always with thankfulness, and sometimes with deep emotions of gratitude.

One of the collectors reports as follows:—"The Bible which the Committee voted to be given to a poor family by the name of — was received with tears of gratitude, and a promise given that it would be read daily. The man said he