

poor fellow, both of whose hands had been badly injured, gave us considerable encouragement in this new and sad work by the delight with which he accepted a copy of the Gospels. On this occasion 42 portions were freely distributed, and 7 New Testaments sold. A young Hungarian, whose leg had been hit by a ball, purchased a Testament with evident delight, and afterwards asked us to get him a Hebrew Bible, telling us that he was a Jew. At the Military Hospital the Director refused admittance; but at the Asylum, which has also been turned into a hospital, one of the attendants went from ward to ward with our colporteur, recommending our books in the following words: 'This man has been sent by the English Bible Society, which offers, to everyone that can read, a copy of the Gospels gratis, and those that wish to have a larger book can have one for a very small sum. These books are very cheap; and moreover, my friends, I tell you these books are the best in the world.' Twelve Portions were distributed and two Testaments sold. Some, however, could not be prevailed upon to accept a copy, not even as a present.

"Arriving at Pazua, it was too late that day to go into all the rooms; but one of the wounded, having heard of the colporteur's arrival, asked the nurse to go out and get a copy at once. One of the wards was filled with mortally wounded soldiers, but none of them could read. However, the nurse requested the colporteur to leave a copy, offering her services to read to them.

"Returning to Belgrade, another visit was paid to the Academy, where the numbers had meanwhile increased. This time the colporteur was not allowed to enter the rooms, on the plea that it would be too fatiguing to the patients. But the offer was freely made to distribute copies, and 60 Portions were asked and left for the purpose."

#### LETTER FROM THE COLPORTEUR.

'In his last letter our valuable and intelligent colporteur writes:—

'I have just received your letter of the 4th inst. announcing the arrival of Dr. Laseron, but he has not yet called on me. Meanwhile I hold myself prepared, in obedience to your instructions, to supply him with copies of the Scriptures as required by him. I am very glad that England is going to do something for our poor sick and wounded ones. I frequently visit them, and my heart is moved to witness the outward and inward wretchedness of their state. I often go home very sad, thinking of what I might do to help them. But, of course, I can do but little; but at least I am permitted, in daily petitions, to bring these suffering ones before the throne of grace.'

"You see we are on the spot, and doing what we can. It is a sad and mournful work, and what we see and hear fills our hearts with a fresh desire that the time may soon come, promised in the Scriptures, when 'violence shall no more be heard in the land, nor wasting and destruction within our borders.'"

A day or two after this Dr. Laseron called at the Vienna dépôt; and acting upon the wish of the Committee, Mr. Millard supplied him with 8,000 or 9,000 Servian Portions. The next communication from the latter is dated the 23rd August.

#### NO WASTE.

"I have already given you some account of what we are attempting among the sick and the wounded in Servia. I believe our well-tried and faithful colporteur, Lichtenberger, has done all that could at the time be done, in freely offering Scripture Portions to all such as were able to read and willing to accept them. He certainly is too sober and conscientious to allow of any waste by scattering books recklessly; and it goes to one's heart to see the wild ways in which some people fling copies away, probably just to be able to say that so many tens of thousands are gone. *Gone* indeed, but not where they ought to go. However, though the work thereby suffers generally, I only mention this in a passing way. The Bible Society needs not have recourse to such small means to court the favour of the public."