

Colonel Ravn, of the Denmark Agency; and there is little doubt that the story of Norway will be repeated in the southern kingdom, and that it may be unnecessary to appoint any new Agent of the Society there. In the later Christian history of the Germanic peoples, there are few more entirely satisfactory evidences of life than this acceptance of the duty of the supply of a popular Bible at home, while it leaves all the more for its conflict with over-sea heathenism the Society which gave them birth.

TO GERMANY there must be a more detailed reference, were it only because from that great Agency the restlessly active, the intense, the devoted spirit of Mr. James Watt has been so unexpectedly withdrawn. The story of Mr. Watt's life must be read elsewhere—it necessarily forms at the same time one of the most instructive chapters in the Society's own varied story. The report for the year shows a very large increase in the total German circulation; it amounts to 668,495, and is some 54,000 copies in advance of that of 1893-4.¹ The Society's own returns are also higher, and especially in Bavaria, Silesia, East Prussia and Posen—provinces which, from their Roman Catholic or non-German populations, are specially and peculiarly its care. It should be added that "in the colportage circulation of 1894 the highest average has been reached during Mr. Watt's tenure of the Agency, and probably the highest in its history; and that such has been the economy practised, without reducing the wages of the men, that the expenditure per copy has been the lowest ever known." Results like these would not only have given the highest satisfaction to Mr. Watt's statistical mind, but they are largely attributable to that incessant watchfulness to which the Agency owes so much.

From the Germanic let us turn to the Latin peoples—the versatile and gifted descendants of the races which, side by side with the Germans themselves, built up a modern Europe on the ruins of the old civilisations. No special reference can be made to Belgium,² to Portugal, or to Spain,³ where there is little specially distinctive; but no one can overlook Italy and FRANCE.

In the little town of Croisic, in the Loire Inférieure—it is the Croisic of Mr. Wedmore's *Pastorals*, with its homely farms, its salt marshes, its sifting Biscayan gales—there is a burying place, long ago forsaken, with suggestive memories of its own. In the sixteenth century Croisic had a population of six thousand—there are now little more than two—of whom four thousand were Evangelical Protestants; but the religious persecution of the time, which could not spare even this little remote place, drove them for refuge to England. One may find the graves of these people in the lonely Cimetière des Huguenots—they have left hardly a living representative—and the Croisic fisher-folk are described by the colporteur as intolerant beyond almost any other, and full of prejudices against the Word of God.

There are moods in which one is ready to think of Croisic, with its Huguenot cemetery, as indicating as an emblem or picture might do the state of modern France. The old Reformation piety seems to have departed, and to have left behind little except the graves of its fathers. But the conclusion, like many other pessimistic ones, would be an exceedingly mistaken one. M. Monod's report for the year is interesting in every page, and it goes very far to prove that if the Huguenots, as a party, have departed, the spirit which inspired them still lives in the country from which with heavy hearts they fled. One of the most suggestive facts in M. Monod's summary is that the people are becoming weary of a life without God—

¹ Total circulation of all the societies in GERMANY, 668,495 (previous year, 612,362); total circulation for the year through the Agency of the *British and Foreign Bible Society*, including (53,568) Switzerland, 294,572 (previous year, 292,271). Colportage sales were 64,359 (previous year, 60,793).

² Total circulation for the year in the SPANISH Agency, 51,907 (previous year, 64,835); by colportage, 20,180 (previous year, 29,943). In the BELGIAN Agency the total circulation for the year has been 34,468 (previous year, 18,281); by colportage, 9,046 (previous year, 9,149).

³ Total circulation for the year in the FRENCH Agency 167,763 (previous year, 233,598); of this by colportage, 56,116 (previous year, 60,389).

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¹ Total colportage, 10,000 (previous year, 9,000). Italians there 2