

Thankful must we feel that Christian England has been most forward in thus sending forth her good Samaritans to pour oil and wine into the wounds of suffering thousands. And not only during the war, but since its termination, she has of the abundance of her wealth furnished with unsparing generosity to those whose country has been desolated and they themselves deprived of almost all means of present subsistence, not only food and clothing, but even the very seed to sow their ground.

My friends may we not see into all this, the influence of that book—so full of lessons of love and mercy—gradually impressing itself more and more upon human hearts and consciences; and although the pride and passions of men may still continue to set nation against nation until that blessed time shall come, when they “Shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks”—and there shall be no more war, yet may we thank God, that the spirit of the Gospel is so far leavening the nations, that in our own fatherland more especially, it has led to an exhibition of Christian benevolence and sympathy towards suffering neighbours such as the world has never witnessed before. Nor, while ministering to the wants of the body, have the Christians of England shewn themselves unmindful of the souls of men. The great Parent Society has been most active through its agents and Colporteurs in circulating the Bible among the soldiers both of France and Germany. In the different garrisons of France as well as among the soldiers in the field, large numbers of Gospels and Testaments have been distributed; and in the majority of instances have been eagerly and gratefully received; and even on the field of battle itself the Colporteurs have been most active among the soldiers of both nations.

In connexion with this subject, I cannot forbear quoting to you an anecdote given in one of the numbers of the Bible Society's *Reporter*. The special correspondent of one of the daily papers speaking of his visit to Gonesse, whither he had gone to spend Christmas day with some officers of the Saxon regiment, says:—“In the officers' casino, there is sitting a Dragoon officer who has come hither on an errand worth mentioning in England. His men, quartered in a village a considerable distance to the rear, have heard that there is at Gonesse, a Colporteur of the British and Foreign Bible Society with his waggon, and they have requested the officer to come and ask the Colporteur either to visit them, or to part with a few parcels of his books. I forgot