

In referring to France, the parent Committee state, that if there be one country more than another to which they can refer as affording indubitable proof of the Divine blessing on their labors, that country is France. There the Society has liberally applied its resources for a series of years, and with a degree of success which must inspire gratitude to the giver of every good and perfect gift. If it were needful to argue for the expediency of the simple circulation of the Holy Scriptures without note or comment, the Committee would point to France, where the modern triumphs of religion have been achieved, to a very great extent, by the Bible, disseminated through the agency of colportage, without any of those means of explanations and enforcement so readily obtained in our own country. Who does not admit that the amount of religious faith, feeling, and practice in France, at the present day, is very far indeed in advance of what it was thirty years ago? And who will deny that the labors of the Society have been one essential means in producing such a result? The excellent and indefatigable agent, M. de Pressensé, records the operations of the year as exhibiting a circulation of 120,644 copies, yielding satisfactory evidence that the Divine promise still holds good—"My word shall not return unto me void, but shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

M. de Pressensé alludes in his report to the special work of the year in relation to the military. Authority was given by the Committee for gratis distributions of the New Testament, to such men as were proceeding to the Crimea and gave evidence of a desire to possess the Scriptures, while to others, copies were to be offered at a greatly reduced price. The Agent availed himself of the liberty thus accorded to him, and various measures were adopted to give circulation to the Scriptures in the camps and at the ports of embarkation. A very considerable distribution has thus been effected in France by the Society.

The records of colportage in France are, as usual, replete with facts of touching and beautiful interest. They bring to light many an instance of the marvellous power of Divine truth over the human conscience and affections: they illustrate the joy that is shed over the home of affliction by the consolations of the Gospel of peace; they shew that circumstances, in themselves apparently insignificant, create a wide spread desire for the Scriptures, and at the same time prove how excellent is the influence produced by the devout demeanor and self-denying labors of the humble colporteur.

The work in Belgium, Holland, and Germany, continues to advance at the usual rate of progress. Amid many discouragements the work of colportage goes on, and the word of life is being every day more and more disseminated. An interesting circumstance connected with Bible distribution occurred on the visit of the King of Prussia to Cologne for the purpose of laying the first stone of the bridge which is to span the Rhine. On this occasion the agent of the Society, Mr. Millard, sought an introduction to his Majesty, that he might offer for his acceptance a copy of a new

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