

Extracts from the Report of the British and Foreign Bible Society :—

SPAIN.

Now that Spain seems to be again closing itself against the operations of the Society, it is with deep interest we read in the Parent Society's Report of what was done in that dark country during the past year. We give the following extracts, trusting that they will lead our readers to pray earnestly to God to water the good seed already sown among that benighted nation, with an abundant out-pouring of his Holy Spirit.

The way in which God opened an entrance for His own Word into this country was so marvellous, that no Christian heart could fail to beat quicker with joyful expectation at the prospect of the good things which He had prepared for its people; and no difficulties or reverses, no storms which sweep over Church or State, must now be allowed to weaken the faith or damp the ardour of those who have good will towards them in Zion. The banner of Truth which has been unfurled in their midst must be kept waving in the breeze, and no effort must be spared to give light to those that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to assert the supremacy of Christ over Antichrist, and of the Revelation of God over the superstition of man. Mr. Corfield, the Society's Agent, feels more than ever that the light of God's Truth can alone dispel the darkness which has so long brooded over this unhappy country, and in that conviction he is content to labour in his high vocation, looking to God for guidance, and leaving the results in His hands. And he does this all the more cheerfully since, notwithstanding the hindrances which he has had to encounter through the disturbed state of the country, the excited condition of men's minds, and the heavy taxation which the war has entailed, he is able to report a considerable advance in the sales effected. These have amounted to the goodly number of 5,518 Bibles, 8,028 Testaments, and 40,999 Portions, being a total of 54,545 copies, as against 50,704 in the previous year. In addition to this, 2,748 have been distributed as free gifts, and 3,000 have been forwarded to London, making the total issues from the Depot at Madrid 60,293. Fourteen colporteurs have been employed on an average during the whole year who have succeeded in putting into circulation 35,679 copies, consisting of 3,344 Bibles, 5,071 Testaments, and 27,264 Portions. Such a record of work during a period of great trial must be considered most encouraging, and be suggestive of gratitude and praise to the Giver of all good, the more so as the increase in the circulation has extended not only to the smaller Portions, but to Bibles and Testaments. Of the extent of the blessing conferred by such an instrumentality as your Society employs, it is impossible to form any adequate conception, but occasionally evidence crops up which shews that God is working surely, if in secret, and that the good seed has lost none of its vitality. To this effect is a letter lately received from the Rev. J. Viliesid, of Xerez, who in sending a contribution to the Bible Society from his congregation, chiefly composed of vineyard labourers, illustrates the blessedness of the work in which it is engaged by the following anecdote :—

Often and often we remember your Society at our prayer meetings, and ask God to bless its work. The cheap Bible is a great boon to this country, which so long has been sunk in superstition and spiritual darkness. Some people doubt the advisableness of circulating the Scriptures among every class of people, and especially without notes. They say it is all very well to do so in Protestant countries, where every one knows what the book is about, and has it explained either at family worship, school, or Bible class, but what is the use of doing it in places where the majority of the people never heard of it, and have no one to explain it to them? To such objectors I would say what Philip said to Nathaniel "Come and see." The great truth, that the Bible is its own interpreter, is being daily confirmed by the facts we meet with in towns and villages, where no preacher's voice has yet been heard. Here is a remarkable case that came under my notice :—A few months ago a