

porteurs of the Bible Society have been compelled to quit their quiet work of Bible circulation, and engage in the deadly strife. The British and Foreign Bible Society has been doing what it could to mitigate the horrors of war, by the circulation of the Scriptures among the soldiers, and especially among the wounded and the sick.

In *Belgium* 12,671 copies of the Scriptures, being an increase of more than 800 over the issues of the former year, had been attained. Six Colporteurs were employed, who have sold 7,311 vols. One of them thus refers to his work:

"I went on the pay-day, in hopes of selling to the workmen, to an establishment at M—, where I had on former occasions had discussions with the keeper of the cantine. As I came up to the door a gentleman, who was getting into a carriage, immediately he saw what I was, went in with me, and spoke to the mistress of the cantine, who went out with him, and soon returned, bringing her husband, who said, 'You are a seller of Protestant books—we don't want your Bibles. The workmen here have other things to do than to read them; we do not want to become Protestants.' I answered that I had before told him that the Bible is not for Protestants only, but is indispensable to mankind in general. The gentleman answered, 'Yes, yes, but we don't want to become Protestants, that's all. Even the Anglicans are now turning Catholics.'

*Colporteur.*—'But if the Anglicans are turning Catholics, the Spaniards, Austrians, Belgians, and Italians are becoming Protestants. But that is not the question—we all have a duty to perform in obedience to Jesus Christ, who commanded all nations to read His Word.'

*Gentleman.*—'I don't want to argue with you—I see you have a soft tongue, but we know the quackery of Protestantism. You are forbidden to sell here, that's enough.'

*Colporteur.*—'If they were *apoplexts*, or *scapularies*, or medals that I had to sell, perhaps I should be more welcome.'

On this the workmen sitting in the cantine began to laugh. I went into the next house, and several of them followed me. One, who already had a Testament, bought a Bible. On the whole, I sold one Bible, five Testaments, and about ten Portiens.

The Belgian Evangelical Society has again been supplied with Books for its Colporteurs at a reduced rate. To the Scottish National Bible Society Colporteurs (who also labor in Belgium) 1,754 vols. have been sold. The Seaman's Society, at Antwerp, has been supplied with 2,475 copies of the Word of God.

*Holland.*—During the past year the circulation of the Scriptures has increased from 24,741 copies to 32,283.