

the colporteur from another town, who had pressed God's Word upon these villagers, and from what they had read they were prepared to hear more about the matter. One soul has been gathered in; and who can <sup>not</sup> in the hearts of how many more the ground has been broken up?

**CALCUTTA.**—The Free Grants included supplies sent up to Peshawur for the soldiers returning from Afghanistan, and books required for house to house visitation in Bhowanipore, conducted by the Rev. J. E. Payne. This gentleman says:—

"Hundreds of requests have been made for Gospels as I have passed along the streets. I have explained that I was presenting a book at each house, and not giving to all comers. A few, on hearing this, have asked to be allowed to purchase Gospels; to this I have acceded. This systematic distribution of books is very different from indiscriminate circulation; it may, in my judgment, be continued side by side with colportage.

"Whenever practicable, I have explained to the recipient the contents of the book. This has led in very many cases to the best opportunities of preaching the Gospel that I have enjoyed during the year. A few neighbours have gathered round to listen as I stood talking about the Gospel of Christ; a chair has been brought, and I have sat in the midst of an attentive company of hearers; an appointment has been made, and I have gone to the same house again and again to discuss religious topics; as I have gone along the street I have been called upon to explain passages in the books I had previously given.

"Many of the books have reached the hands of women. Not a few little girls have been sent to the doors to get a book from me for the ladies in the zenana."

**BOMBAY.**—Eight colporteurs have been employed during the year—an increase of two. The Rev. H. J. Bruce, of Satara, who superintends one, named Chandrabhan Salave, gives some interesting cases in which he has done good:—

1. **M**— is a village of considerable size. When he first went there, and the people learned that he had the Padre's books for sale, they would not buy his books nor would they listen to his preaching with any interest. But there was a Brahman boy standing near him who listened attentively, and afterwards told him that he thought his words were true. Chandrabhan then told him more of Christ. Some time afterwards Chandrabhan went to that village, and the people began to buy his books. Some said, "Why do you buy the Padre's books?" but others said that they were good books; and a number of copies were sold. The Brahman lad met him, and they had a long conversation. He bought a copy of a Scripture portion, and expressed his conviction that Christianity was true. He said if it were not for his parents he would himself become a Christian. This lad still remains in an interesting state, and it is our prayer that he may be led to receive the Gospel in its fullness.

2. Chandrabhan went to the village of **K**—. A number of people gladly purchased some of his books, and afterwards he preached to them. The next day a young Brahman came to him and said, "I believe that what you say is true. There is but one Saviour, and besides Him there is no God. I love to read the Christian Scriptures, but my people will not let me read them. This sometimes makes me very sad. What shall I do? I have no confidence in the Hindu religion." How many there are who are kept back by the bonds of caste and the fear of their friends!

3. In one place there is a Burud (bamboo maker) who sometimes detains the colporteur for a day, and if he has not leisure in the daytime, he will call a number of people together in his house at night to listen to the Word.

The Rev. G. Shirt, of Hyderabad, writes:—"With regard to the sale of the Scriptures, it is still the day of small things with us; but sometimes in our preaching excursions we come across people who have obtained portions of God's Word and read them. When this is the case, there is always an oppor-