

quence of the beautiful moral fruits which have grown up in connection with the dissemination of God's word. The year now closed has not been without its difficulties. Manifestations of hostility have been encountered, and the line of action taken by some of the subordinate authorities appeared at one time to threaten the extinction of that system of colportage, by means of which the Scriptures are chiefly circulated. The Committee had reason to be thankful that the French Government disclaimed all desire to interfere with the right of the people to purchase and read the Scriptures, and that this declaration of its sentiment elicited a sympathetic response from the most enlightened portion of the French press. The work of the Society has therefore proceeded with undiminished vigor and success.

The Colporteurs continue to render the most effective service, under the direction of the Agent, M. de Pressensé. The Parent Committee rejoice that they have such a band of laborers, men entitled to all confidence and affection, who with great zeal and self denial encounter trials and sacrifices, which sufficiently attest that no mercenary or worldly motive can actuate them. One facility attending the work in France is the thoroughly exemplary spirit and demeanor of those humble agents; they are men who have given every reasonable evidence of personal religion, and, having experienced the transforming power of Divine truth, are impressed with the obligation of aiding its diffusion. In their intercourse with others they shun all discussion on political questions; they never seek to fan the flame of discontent; they are known as the men of "The Book," and are respected as the friends of social order. Hence they are rarely interfered with by the authorities in the prosecution of their peaceful mission. A few incidents connected with their labors may here be given:—

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