

COLPORTAGE.*

This Society is not a mere Book-selling Association. It is rather an evangelistic agency, whose grand object is to spread Divine truth over the whole of these Provinces, with a view to the salvation of souls; and the Agents and means employed correspond with this design.

Its Colporteurs are men of piety, prudence, devotedness, Scriptural knowledge, and Catholic spirit. They sell Bibles and Testaments, Evangelical books in great variety, and good cheap periodicals, many of them beautifully illustrated.

They also in no small degree act as home missionaries. They know the truth and love it, and therefore spread it with the lips as well as in the printed page. They are men of prayer, daily asking the Divine blessing on their labours, and praying with the people and for them. To each Colporteur is assigned a district of one or two counties as his field of labour, all the families, in which he is expected to visit.—About \$250 in free contributions, are required for the support of each Colporteur for a year, the balance of the necessary expense being met by the profit on sales.

It is now over five years since the Society commenced operations. The enterprise has been attended from the beginning, with the most gratifying success. The manifold benefits, intellectual, moral and spiritual, derived by the people from the Colporteur's labours, and the good hope given from time to time of the conversion of souls, have cheered the hearts of the Committee, and caused them to bless the Lord for engaging them in a work so well fitted to extend the Kingdom of the Redeemer.

Colportage has now been tried in all kinds of localities in our cities and towns, as well as in the most remote and destitute rural districts, and has been successful in all.

The benefits which Colportage bestows on the people are manifold. By the Colporteur's wholesome influence, and by the edifying and attractive books circulated by him, sluggish minds are stimulated, the ignorant are instructed, the thoughts are raised above the things of time and sense and turned to things unseen and eternal, a concern for the souls' interests is awakened, in the place of merely secular

* Part of the following article is from the Tract and Book Evangelist of the Scottish Tract Society.

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