

## THE BIBLE IN MEXICO.

Bibles are multiplying in Mexico, and notwithstanding all the vigilance and rage of the Romish priesthood, are finding their way into the hands of the people. Last year the American Bible Society sustained there twenty-six colporteurs. They put in circulation 11,234 volumes, of which 8,175 were sold. Considering the opposition and hardships they encounter, and the extreme poverty—even misery—of the mass of the people, they have done well. Mr. Hamilton, the Society's agent, writes :

"In the market-places of a large city a colporteur approaches a group of Indians, who, having sold and bought, have their packs ready to return with them to their village or mountain homes. He offers them the Holy Scriptures ; explains the character of the books ; has about persuaded them to take each a book, when a woman passing with Mass books and beads, seeing the cheap books, exclaims at once that the books are bad, the books are forbidden, and that they must not be received even as a gift, for the Mother Church will condemn the reader to eternal punishment ! This is enough ; the poor Indians are afraid of that anathema, and they turn to go. Only one of the number has the courage to accept the New Testament of our Lord Jesus Christ. This occurred but yesterday ; it often occurs ; it is a specimen of the colporteur's daily work.

"Very few books are now bought out of curiosity. The colporteur has to read, explain and persuade, and then sell at the purchaser's price. Or, if by chance a book is sold to one who has never heard of the Bible, and he takes it to his servants' room in a great house, and the master or the mistress sees it, he is commanded to take it away or lose his place. He returns to the colporteur or to the depository, and while confessing that he likes the book and would read it through were he his own master, yet says he must dispose of it or be turned into the street as one who had stolen or committed some other crime in his employer's house. Such an incident we witnessed last week.

"If the man lives in his own house in a village, the *cura* will soon find the book, and either sell it, keeping the price, or burn it, imposing penance on the unfortunate seeker after truth. Here on our office table now are two evangelical books,

belonging to a man who dare not take them home for fear of their being committed to the flames. For several days he has come to read them here. He was, but a month ago, an active Roman Catholic, but the immorality of a priest turned him away, and he began to search the Scriptures."—*Sci.*

## AN ENLIGHTENED CONSCIENCE.

One of the best signs of a truly enlightened conscience is to be found in our carefully guarding the reputation of others. Growth in grace is shown by saying little of their supposed faults, and by mentioning, as far as is consistent with truth, their commendable qualities. The good to be derived from a proper cultivation of charity toward all men is threefold—it benefits the erring person, giving him to see that there are those who have his welfare in view ; it is also a benediction upon those who observe our charitable spirit, prompting them likewise to words and works of charity ; and it always blesses the individual himself, leading him to practice self-control and self-renunciation in behalf of others.

Christian forbearance is a wonderful educator. The Epistles are full of earnest teaching upon this subject. There is a Divine reaction upon the soul that habitually cherishes this spirit. The only wonder is that it is not more generally practiced for its own sake. The sacred writings, however, do not urge this upon us as a mere sentiment. Rather, we are taught that charity is the genuine fruit of ripened Christian experience, and that it is always consistent with justice and truth. —*Sci.*

Do you feel that you are able to do nobler and better work than you are doing, and that circumstances compel you to waste your power in the apparently unimportant details of common daily drudgery? Be of good cheer; "circumstances" is often only another name for Divine providence.

It is reported that the Roman Catholics in Mexico are bringing strong pressure to bear on the government to rescind the grant to the Mormons of land in Chihuahua.