

WRITE IN A BOOK.

A PLEA FOR CHRISTIAN COLPORTAGE.

(BY REV. ADOLPH SAPHRU.)

[We have the very highest authority and example for this work in which we are engaged. God, who has given us ears to hear, has always sent unto us messengers to declare His Truth; but God has also given us eyes with which to see and to read, and He has also caused that those wonderful works which He has wrought for the benefit of mankind should not merely be proclaimed and preached, but that they should be committed to writing. We find that the prophets not merely appeared among the people and said, "Thus saith the Lord," but, according to the Divine injunction, they wrote the things which they had to say in a book, as we find from the time of Moses onwards.]

It was surely in the providence of God that the children of Israel were brought into contact with (at that time) the most civilized nation of the world, so that they were familiar with the art of writing, and so that the wonderful words and works of their experience were handed down, not merely orally, but also written, in order that they might be preserved in a permanent shape. And all through the history of God's dealings with mankind, from Genesis to the Book of Revelation, we find the importance which God has attached to writing. In the Book of Revelation, the last Book which we possess, we very often find the expression used, "Write the things which thou hast seen." "I heard a voice that said unto me, Write in a book." So we see that God Himself has attached so great importance to this, that things are to be written, are to be put, as it were, into a book, and afterwards read leisurely, frequently, and solemnly.

I think that a rapid survey of the history of the Church will bear me out when I say that whenever it has pleased God to bless the Church and to carry on a great work among the nations, He has not merely sent men to preach, but He has also raised up skilful hands to write. And it is very touching to notice how, before the discovery of the art of printing, when the difficulty must have been very great, the early Christians were very anxious to disseminate the truth by circulating little books and tracts. It had all to be done by writing, and therefore it must have been very laborious and expensive. In the earlier days there were little books prepared for special classes, such as sailors, soldiers, agriculturists, merchants, and the like—putting religion before them in such a light as would most commend itself to them according to their various callings. We read of Peter Waldo (the founder of the Waldenses), that he spent a great portion of his fortune in getting copies of the Scriptures written and circulated. He had a very large "Colportage Society." There was a very large

band who were in order to work knives and all copies of various Fathers in which "Colportage"

I need not say that the Society he had it was not merely but it was to the Gospel work years after the "These friends of Europe were only be compared Egypt." So Reformation.

Many people were setting course, and a God to arouse very narrow way God has what is written of His saints instances, but scale. In the opposition of been almost secular books that

There is one fervour and answer to the given to the mind is so, there is mind and the the people see sermon, they habit of doing forget how moved in that guidance of the living utterance unto His service

And so it have a wonder who have so