

CORSICA.—This island has been traversed from end to end by the Colporteur Franchi. Pastor Mourgues, writing from Bastia, says: "Our good friend does his best to attain more favourable results, but the strife is dreadful." Some idea of it may be gained from Franchi's journal.

"Left Bastia March 21 for Bonifacio, where no colporteur had ever been seen, and where the Gospel had never been announced openly. I began to work next day, offering Bibles and Testaments. All at once I was assailed by four priests, who screamed as loud as they could, 'Beware of purchasing such books, dear parishioners; they are Satan's work, and you will go to hell.' The people then took hold of me, and wanted to throw me into the sea. I begged leave to speak, and obtained silence: 'I do not offer you devilish books; it is the holy Word of God, the good news of salvation through Christ, the only Mediator and Saviour.' Then the people began looking at my books, and a young man, in spite of the priests' threats, did not hesitate to purchase a Bible. Then the priests went through the streets of the city, crying, 'Do not buy the books of that miserable man; if you do, you shall be excommunicated.' Not content with that, they sent after me the whole gendarmerie, who abused me. Although I produced my authorization, they took me under escort to my lodgings to examine minutely all my books, and to see if they were stamped. Seeing they were so, they left me.

"I then went to Tortovecchio, where I met Mr. Lavanchy, a missionary. He gave a conference, and I sold easily amid a willing population. I then proceeded to Solingara, where the missionary also spoke. I sold some copies to men who were wise and desirous of being instructed. At Sari a gendarme told me that I had better leave the country than try to sell books that did not speak of the Virgin. I easily proved him the contrary by reading aloud before the people the 1st chapter of Luke. Every one was convinced, and I made a pretty good sale."

Since this journey was taken, signs have appeared of an improved state of feeling in the island. Franchi has received letters at Bastia, asking for an explanation of the Gospel. A special note has been inserted against him in the Corsican Almanac by the priests; but he is not afraid; rather does he rejoice to be counted worthy to suffer for the name he bears.

"One day two young men came to me, saying, 'You are the man who sells Protestant books.' 'I am.' 'Well, our priests have told us that these books are forbidden, because they teach a doctrine in opposition to the Church of Rome, out of which there is no salvation.' 'My dear friends,' said I, 'your priests' defence is contrary to the truth, and if you please to listen a moment to me, I will show that here is the Way, the Truth and the Life,' and opening the Bible I read several passages, and explained them. They listened with intense interest, and observed, 'But this book says nothing at all against religion.' I then pressed upon them the duty of reading the Bible: 'Pray purchase the Bible, read it attentively in a prayerful spirit, ask God's guidance and light, and then look unto Jesus.' They were actually in tears, and each of them purchased a Bible. I met them some weeks later, and they told me, 'Blessed be God, we have at last found the truth.'

One of the colporteurs labouring in the North, among the factories of Croix and Roubaix, says:—

"Although the trade is almost stopped, I have no reason to feel discouraged. People are certainly more inclined than they have been these last years to inquire after the Word of God. I have even observed in several French and Flemish families that they mutually helped one another to furnish the sum necessary for the purchase of a Bible or a Testament, and I have ascertained that the Scriptures thus purchased are also read daily."—*Annual Report of British and Foreign Bible Society.*