

Mr. J. W. SMITH writes :—

As I have spent seven months and five days in the service of the Society, I hasten to give you a short account of my stewardship. My work was chiefly in Queens and Sunbury Counties, with a short visit to York. Sold Bibles and books to the value of five hundred and seventy-seven dollars and fifty-five cents. Made grants to the value of fifty-one dollars and seventy cents. Addressed sixty-six public meetings; visited seventy-eight Roman Catholic families; conversed and prayed with four hundred and three families; visited two thousand six hundred and one homes, and travelled one thousand one hundred and twenty-nine miles, some of them through snow and mud, in the heat of summer and chilly blast of winter; so, if any of the readers of this year's report should think that the Colporteur's work is all sunshine, let them try it, for there are some who will never learn any other way but by experience. It is like all other departments of the Master's work—one day on the mountain top of exaltation, and many days down in the valley; after all the valley of blessing, to lift up the fallen, to bring the light of his love, to cheer the dark and benighted ones, and help them to a better life. And all who engage in it must look for days of trial as well as days of good cheer; and as lost time can never be found, let all who give and work for the Society carry their motto into 1887. Success will crown our efforts, and the Kingdom come of the Master will be hastened. Some of my work during the year has been without visible fruit, very much as John Ploughman says, like watering a dead stake, but as the good Book says, "Cast thy bread upon the waters." I have gone forth scattering some here and there, not knowing which shall prosper, and trusting that with the blessing of God the world may be better for my place in it, and when the harvest time comes there may be some golden sheaves garnered in. And now with another year's experience, my testimony is that Colportage fills an important place in the army of Christian workers, and could not be dispensed with without serious loss in the spiritual life of the people, for by the good books—Bibles, tracts—distributed, many have borne testimony to the quickening of religious life. Let one instance suffice. Sold a Bible to a young girl, and gave one of Moody's "How to read the same." They were the means in God's hands of leading her to forsake the path of the destroyer and enter in at the straight gate. She is calmly pursuing the narrow path which leads up to the gates of pearl to the glorious land of song. My visits to the sick and dying have been seasons of blessing to myself as well as them, judging from the warm grasp of the hand and the light in their eye as they looked up to the Golden City, into which they had well grounded hopes of soon entering, as they were