

fall of 1872, I was keeping ship on the brig A——, of Thomaston, Maine, as she lay at a pier on the East River, when a package came on board for the captain, containing Portuguese Testaments and tracts for distribution at the Brazilian port to which the vessel was bound. With these was a Bible, which, as I carelessly looked over the contents of the parcel, struck my fancy as a nice-looking book; so I took possession of it as a good piece of property, of possible use some day; for I was a perfectly godless fellow then, never going to church, and never having looked into a Bible since I was a boy. I did not sail in that vessel, but next spring I shipped as mate in a bark bound to Havre; and when at sea, being put to it for something to read, I took out my Bible, became interested, and soon was praying for mercy. I will not enlarge on the scene in that cabin, but I shall never forget the spot. When I returned to New York I united with the church and began to work among seamen. I have been attending Dr. Talmage's college, in Brooklyn, and hope soon to preach the gospel from the pulpit; indeed, I have done so twice already." He had brought with him the Bible to show me (our cheapest duodecimo), and pointed to the passage, "I am the door," etc., as one of those which he had found most precious.

In a rear basement I found a poor coloured widow, a Christian woman, who wanted a larger print Bible than the one she had, and wished to pay for it, but said money was very scarce with her, and was delighted and deeply thankful when I allowed her to buy it for a merely nominal price. I told her how sincerely I respected her disposition to buy the Bible, and gave a New Testament to her little granddaughter to the great joy of both.

Found a family living in quite comfortable apartments, yet destitute of the Bible; the wife being a Virginian and the husband from New York. Though not professing Christians, they seemed glad of the opportunity to buy the Bible for their home, and were evidently thoughtful and sincere respecters of God's word, which I trust will be a blessing to them.

In the times through which we are passing, very many worthy families have been found without the Bible, and pleading inability to buy it because the husband and father had no work, or had but just begun again after having been long out of employment. To two such families, each having five children, I gave the Bible to-day.

Having a while ago sold a Bible on credit to a worthy Christian German, I called to-day for the price, and he brought it in his hand, but said with seeming hesitancy and diffidence, "Don't you sometimes sell it for less to the poor?" Sure that I understood him aright, I replied, "Yes, and I will sell it to you for half that." With an expression of thanks that I shall not soon forget, he paid me, he and his worthy wife thanking me again and again. At the same low price I sold the Bible to a German widow and mother, whom I felt sure would rather buy it than receive it gratuitously; and by buying it at any price, individual self-respect is preserved.

Said a man I met coming by the steamer "England:" "Sir, will you be so kind as to give me a copy. I got one in this place thirteen years ago. I carried it with me to Lake Superior, and had it twelve years. It was the only book I possessed. I made my living by boating and fishing. I lost it a year ago. I have spent many a happy hour in reading the story of Jesus, how he came into this world to seek and to save that which was lost, and, thank God, I know Jesus is my Saviour."

About the middle of January last, I was asked by the secretary of the German Society of New York if I could find time to call on a poor family in Brooklyn. The next morning I went and was admitted. There were in the cellar two wooden chairs, a little iron bedstead with a straw mattress and a thin, unclean quilt, a stove with a teakettle on, but no fire. The young wife, only eighteen years old, was very thinly clad. The only ornament I noticed on the mantelpiece was one of our small German Testaments. I said to her, "Where did you get that Testament?" "In Castle Garden, where we landed, a gentleman gave it to me," she said. "How long ago is that?"