

such a future as to refuse to listen to the Words of Him who spreads before His people the picture of a world beyond this world, and offers Himself as their guide and companion to it. Seventeen thousand Belgians at any rate last year felt enough interest on the subject of Eternal Life to buy some portion or the whole of the Word of God. Of these, seven colporteurs sold more than eight thousand copies.

HOLLAND.—The present religious condition of Holland is one of conflict, and for some time is likely to continue so. 'Repos ailleurs,' 'Rest elsewhere,' is the motto suggested to your Agent by the present religious struggle, which recalls to the anxious Christian the stern days of William the Silent.

The majority in the States General does all that it can to enforce the education law of 1878, which excludes the Bible from all the primary schools of the country. What are called 'neutral schools,' involving an expenditure of nearly a million and a half, are to be extended and enlarged, and your Agent deploras in strong terms the dishonour thus put upon the Word of God.

Holland did not last year escape the adversity and consequent depression, to which witness is borne by every report, without exception, which has reached the Society, from lands where white men dwell. The circulation, although above that of a few years since, has fallen off in comparison with the figures of 1878, amounting to 34,573 copies.

GERMANY.—This is the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment in Germany by the Society of a distinct agency. Dr. Pinkerton was appointed in 1830, and although for a quarter of a century before that the Society had done much to quicken the zeal of others, and to provide them with funds, it was not till 1830 that the work could be said to have struck root in the soil of Germany itself. In 1838 the society's issues were under 450,000 in all the world; this year they are three fourths of that number in Germany alone. In 1830 we had no colporteur in Germany; now there are sixty, and the Continental circulation has increased fourteenfold. The past year has been marked in Germany by a slight check in the circulation, evidently in sales to the poor. The total figures are 334,898, as against 353,786; but the receipts for these sales were £12,500, the highest sum ever received in the agency for Scriptures sold. Your able