

asleep this enemy is at work spueing its filth over the land through the thousand-mouthed post office; it runs through our Dominion, on our railways, sowing its dragon teeth broadcast through field and forest: it employs its colporteurs who canvas for their deadly ware, villages and hamlets and concessions where the face of Christian colporteur has never yet been seen.

"Few things," says the Rev. John Ross, in a recent number of the London Christian, "mould a man's morals more than what he *habitually reads*. The low literature of London greatly depraved the working classes of Scotland a few years ago, till colportage induced a change by supplying far better reading. Now happily the full supply of excellent books and magazines brought to the homes of the people throughout the land is conserving the Scotch character of quiet virtue and intelligent piety."

The position that London holds to Britain as the centre and source of lawless, Godless literature, New York holds on this continent. The churches of the United States are, however, in the field persistently combating by pen, pencil, press and colporteur their wily, wiry, yellow-clad enemy. Canada is not altogether idle. Its "Religious Book and Tract Society" has done good in the past, and is now in a prosperous condition; but its work is only half done till it establishes a system of colportage that shall embrace every township in the Province of Ontario. In Nova Scotia a system of Colportage is now in operation; and in the Province of Quebec such a work has been carried on for years, with such blessed effects among the Roman Catholics, as eternity alone can fully disclose. Scotland is occupied by colporteurs from the Solway Firth to John O'Groat's; the system is spreading over the northern counties of England, and slowly stretching towards the centre and south.

A recent author writing of religious literature and the duty of circulating it, says:—

"There are men, who either for their own gain, and it may be, with a commingled desire to benefit mankind, proclaim far and wide the remedies for certain diseases. For every disease that has a name, and for many a pain that has no name, there are promulgations of medicine. This man and that man has made a discovery in the art of healing, or in the province of therapeutics, and intimation of it is spread through the length and breadth of the land. The art of multiplying information by means of printing becomes the resource, and advertisements abound. At a great expense it is done, agents are employed to make known their virtues, and to extend the knowledge of them. Such medicines are kept constantly before the minds of people. Should any suffering or pain be felt or disease threaten, there is the advertisement proclaiming the means to cure, and the place to obtain it, with many testimonies to its efficacy. Some who have tested its properties, and felt benefit, are ready to recommend to others the medicine that cured them. For health is considered a precious thing to those who feel they are losing it, and pain is thought a grievous thing to those who are suffering it. But is the world, and are quacks to monopolize all these advertisements? Are there to be means of cure promulgated in every form of print, of cure for the body, and no advertisement made concerning the disease that preys upon the soul, concerning the balm of Gilead, concerning the Prince of Physicians? Shall the virtues and efficacy of pills and salve and liniment, be announced in every form to attract, and the announcements scattered through every house and home, and no printed word given of the heavenly medicine that resides in the blood shed by Christ who was crucified? Shall roots and bark, and leaves and herbs have their promulgation and their advertisement, and shall there not be sown broadcast, the knowledge of that plant whose leaves are for the healing of the nations?"

We are aware that some attempts have been made to establish colportage in Canada, which proved unsuccessful; that many difficulties lie in the way; that the evangelical denominations of Ontario must be roused to see the need of the work, and to take an interest in it, ere the Religious Book and Tract Society can be warranted to move. All these things are admitted. But with the danger to which our young are exposed by unwholesome literature staring us in the face, with the example of other countries inviting us to proceed, it surely cannot be that the Province of