

the Province were in general less sensible of the value and importance of such a publication, than we believed they would have been. On the other hand, we are assured that many individuals of great piety and sound judgment, not only approved the plan of our little periodical, and considered its regular issue as materially helpful to the cause, but will sincerely regret its discontinuance. Had their number been equal to their good-will, such an event would not yet have been necessary.

On looking back upon the brief period of our labours, we are reminded of various circumstances which place in the strongest possible light the importance of the Bible to the temporal welfare of the community, as well as its value in the concerns of salvation. The events of the last few months have proclaimed, as in a voice of thunder, the evils of ignorance and infidelity, and taught us, if we will but learn the lesson, that religion is the best safeguard of states, and the Bible the best instructor in the principles of loyalty and good order.

Great, however, as the destitution of the Scriptures in this Province was shewn to be by the enquiries of Capt. Maitland, and other agents of the Society, the commercial difficulties in the summer and autumn, and the rebellious agitations of the winter, had excited a fear that the work of distribution would be stopped, at least for a season. It is, therefore, a pleasing reflection, that, notwithstanding these unpropitious appearances, the work has not been interrupted for a moment. The agents were enabled to carry the precious volume with which they were entrusted to places at a distance from the scenes of disturbance, and thus to distribute in safety their copies of the word of life; and, now that the country is opening before them in every direction, there is reason to hope that the great object will be attained at no very distant period. The distribution has been hitherto almost entirely confined to Protestant families; but it is worthy of very serious consideration whether some method might not be resorted to, in which persons speaking the French language should be employed, like the *Colporteurs* in France, to circulate

the Scriptures among the Roman Catholic population. We cannot permit ourselves to doubt that the recent commotions will be over-ruled for good; and the present times appear to us peculiarly favourable for making such an attempt as we have suggested. Should the work be undertaken and pursued in a proper spirit, as we feel confident it would be, and should it succeed in any considerable degree, we have no fear that the blessing of God would be withheld from an enterprise so consonant with the dictates of his own word. It is impossible to calculate how much good might be thus effected in the instruction of the ignorant, the reformation of the unruly, and the salvation of many immortal souls. The honour and advantage which the Father of mercies often confers upon the perusal of his word, a subject to which we have repeatedly called the attention of our readers, afford ample encouragement to try, at least, what can be done in this field of promising labour.

That this is not an impracticable measure is demonstrated by the success which has attended it in other places, particularly in France and the United States of America. Instances of this success in the former country have already been given in our pages; and in the last Report of the Young Men's Bible Society of New York we are informed that "Wherever Catholics are induced to read the Scriptures, we soon discover a decrease of hostility, a willingness to read religious Tracts, and a readiness to send their children to Protestant Sabbath Schools. One visiter states that in her district there are more than thirty Catholic families, and that now every one of them willingly receives Tracts. Eight of these families received the Bible from us in the same month, and in another month more than twenty families in this ward were supplied with the Holy Scriptures at their own request." It appears that in one ward more than one half of the Bibles and Testaments distributed during the year had been given to members of the Romish Church. The report of another ward states that "there is a growing interest manifested among the Catholics for a knowledge of the Bible, and it is generally read by those who have a copy,