

COLPORTAGE IN THE UNITED STATES.

The American Tract Society, to whom a lasting debt of gratitude is due, for the introduction and liberal support of Colportage for several years in these Provinces, and especially Nova Scotia, remark in the Report for 1869:—

"A living personal embodiment of Christian unity is Missionary Colportage. More years of such labour have been performed, twice told than would measure back to the birth of our Lord; more Christian family visits have been made than there are now families in the nation; more volumes of scripture truth circulated than there are households in this entire land; all this by the union effort of evangelical Churches. Romanism with its boasted and efficient unity has done no such harmonious widespread missionary work as this in the United States.

A second characteristic of Colportage, carries it down to the roots of society, and performs its most vital work there. It seeks even that Divine organization, the family, and exerts its chief power in it. It comes to the domestic altar, and aids the father in his morning and evening ministrations; it speaks to the father and mother of parental duties and responsibilities; tells the brothers and sisters of the elder brother, who waits to be their counsellor and friend; and whispers to the lisping child of Him who took little children in His arms and blessed them. Thus it touches the life of the soul of the Church, of the nation, and its fountain-head. And then it installs in each household an abiding preacher, who shall ever with mute but eloquent voice, instruct in the right way, when the living apostle has passed on to other households. And these children, these foundation stones of Church and State, it seeks to fashion meet for the Lord's temple. Its constant visits to the household of the village or neighborhood, find those who neglect instruction in the Sabbath School and gather them in; its magazine of scriptural literature, gives it an argument and a means for permanent instruction, while it finds and persuades the men and women to teach the classes. Thus many scores of schools and many thousands of children have been taught by Colportage year by year. This elementary work sufficiently extended would reach all the springs of human society.

A third element of Colportage is its helpfulness of all other modes of doing good. As a servant, it comes to the pastor, and does his bidding in the visitation of his people and the surrounding destitutions; to the county Bible Society, and seeks out all those who have not the holy record, and supplies them; to the revival meeting, and casts in its aid in the work of the Lord; to the Sabbath School Convention, and co-operates in gathering the children into classes for instruction; to the Immigrant Aid Society, and supplies them with printed truth for their many tongued people; to Seamen's Friend Societies, and fills their hands with books and tracts for the hungry sailors; to Young Men's Christian Associations, and supplies them with needed publications for reaching the careless youth around them; to every godly man