

Veteran Missionary Dr. Duff, who with his large experience of Missions, declares, "Colportage to be one of the noblest and worthiest of existing enterprises." The Scottish Delegate told us of between 400 and 500 of such laborers as then employed in the United Kingdom, and gave it as his matured judgment that there is "no agency, or rather no combination of two kinds of agency—the living voice of earnest Christian men, aided by the printed word—so flexible and so easily adapted to the mission of saving men; no scheme God has so abundantly blessed, as the system of Christian Colportage." The old world Colporteurs are doing not a little to counteract the evil caused by the low, loose London Papers, Penny Journals and Miscellanies that are sent over the Country in hundred weights and tons,—those sensational journals of which I have already spoken, too common amongst ourselves, dealing in Police reports, and proceedings of Divorce Courts, and social wrong-doing, and biographies of abandoned characters, and highly spiced stories and gross obscene pictures.

OUR OWN SOCIETY.

Now this work of Colportage is made a specialty by our own excellent society on the eve of another of whose anniversaries we stand. Our prudent, persevering secretary, the Rev. Alexander McBean, who with unobtrusive earnestness and unflagging energy, worthy of all praise, has superintended our work since its commencement—informs us that Colportage was commenced in Nova Scotia, in July, 1863, by the American Tract Society, and prosecuted under its direction for about four years and a-half, till Dec., 1867. During that time, 25 Colporteurs were employed the aggregate time of whose labours was 23 years and 3 months. Their circulation amounted to \$22,528, and family visits 67,711. In the summer of 1867, our society was formed. "During the last eight years, 64 Colporteurs have been employed; the aggregate of whose services is equal to the time of one man for a period of 83 years seven months and sixteen days. They travelled 142,316 miles, a distance nearly equal to 6 times the circumference of the globe. Their sales of religious books and bibles amounted to \$82,971.95, and their gratuitous distribution of bibles, books and tracts to \$5,978.78. They found 1787 families destitute of any Religious books except the bible; 1042 protestant families destitute of the scriptures, and 1866 neglecting the preaching of the gospel. They made 12086 visits to Roman Catholic families. They addressed 5425 prayer and other religious meetings. They had conversation on personal religion, reading the scriptures or prayer in 87,249 of the visits made by them. They made in all 203,500 family visits. The first 3 years Colportage was confined to Nova Scotia. In the fourth, it was extended to New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. In the sixth to Newfoundland, and in the seventh to Labrador. Seventeen Colporteurs were in the field during the past year as against 26 the year before—the financial depression in part occasioning a curtailment.

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