

were assured that so long as a vestige of religion remained there could be no hope of re-constructing society on a basis which would harmonize with the instincts and requirements of humanity. M. de Pressense deeply deplores the facts to which he feels bound to call the attention of the Committee, and expresses his deliberate conviction that a stream of atheistic materialism is sweeping away thousands in its destructive and fatal current. How little can be expected for Bible circulation amongst those by whom Christianity is so ruthlessly rejected and defamed."

5,645,532 volumes of the Scriptures have been circulated altogether in France, through the efforts of the British and Foreign Bible Society. A large number of these have been sold by Colporteurs. These laborious, Christian workers are not only employed throughout the country, but in Paris ten or eleven of them have been doing good work during the past year. These are men of established piety and known intelligence, able to meet an infidel objection, and to speak a word which will reach the conscience. M. de Pressense states :

"One of our Colporteurs, more frequently than was formerly the case, now visits the small establishments, so numerous all over Paris, which are frequented by the workmen after their day's labour is over, to take their humble evening meal ; after which, whilst smoking their pipes and emptying some glasses of wine, they hold a species of meeting, at which, in turn, they touch upon every subject, whether political or social, which may form the current topic of the day. One evening, then, and the incident is of recent occurrence, our friend before referred to having taken his seat for his own account at one of these establishments, after waiting some time, during which he very carefully abstained from taking any part in the political discussion which was going on, took out an octavo Bible of Ostervald from his bag, and placed it, in a manner to attract attention, on the table at which he was sitting. On seeing the book, the persons present began inquiring what that large volume might be. "The Bible," he replied in a loud and intelligible voice. "The Bible ! the Bible ! take it away, or hide it as quickly as possible. Anything rather than see that book in which the Pope and his clique have inserted such absurd fables ! It irritates us and makes us savage !" was heard from all quarters of the room. It was easy for our friend to reply to such an outburst, and he did so in a way which, certainly, gave no one cause for believing that he was a partisan of the Pope. And then availing himself of the less unfriendly manner in which they seemed disposed to listen to him, he began to give expression to his Christian views and convictions, which he did with as much seriousness as energy. Without making any irritating allusions to the expressions which had been uttered, he proceeded to show that those who wished to have nothing to do with God, or with His Word, could not possibly have any desire to be happy. Numerous replies, both violent and blasphemous, were addressed to him, but he did not allow himself to be either alarmed or shaken in his purpose. Up to the very close of the discussion he continued with much warmth of heart to entreat those who were listening to him, to mistrust their own opinion, and to get rid of their prejudices against the Bible, about which they knew nothing ; and at last, to his great delight,