

an important centre in Europe, means should be adopted to represent the work of the Bible Society in a conspicuous manner. They have, therefore, authorized their Agent, Mr. Millard, to open negotiations with the President of the Commissioners for the purpose of obtaining space, within the building itself, for exhibiting a collection of the Society's versions of the Holy Scriptures; and they have also directed that a suitable spot shall be secured within the grounds in order that a depot may be erected for the sale and free distribution of copies. The action of the Society will involve considerable expense, and the free distribution of the Scriptures must in great measure be regulated by the amount of liberality with which the friends of the Society shall respond to the proposals of the Committee. If the authorities shall concede the privileges requested there will be a most favourable opportunity for the circulation of the Scriptures, amongst classes very difficult of access under ordinary circumstances. Every contribution offered for the object will enable the Committee the more confidently and generously to entertain the plans now under consideration.

The subscriptions received for the Society's special work at the Paris Universal Exhibition in 1867 nearly covered the cost of the work, and it will be gratifying to the Committee if such should be the result in regard to their undertaking at Vienna.

ITALY.

It is not often that the colporteurs in Italy experience such brutal treatment as that described in the subjoined extract, and it is to be hoped that there are few Romish priests, inimical as they may be to the work of the Society, who would be guilty of so disgraceful and inhuman an outrage. The colporteur in question is an inoffensive and well behaved young man, and would not intentionally say anything calculated to cause irritation even to an opponent. He was pursuing a calling sanctioned by the law, and no one had a right to interfere with, much less to assault him. The priest was arrested by the police, and is now at liberty on bail, but probably through lack of witnesses willing to give their testimony, he may escape the punishment which he so richly deserves. Mr. Bruce states :—

“G. Salvatori, one of the Neapolitan colporteurs, was pursuing his calling at Fuori Grotta, near Naples, when he was assaulted by a savage priest.

The following is, I believe, a truthful account of the event :—

“‘When standing in the Piazza with my books, I heard some one call me, and turning to the right observed two priests who wanted me. I asked them if they wished to purchase a Bible, but they made use of very bad language, and one of them ordered me to leave the village immediately, I replied that I was pursuing my calling, and further, as he grew very insolent, I said I was not under a priestly, but a civil government. He quietly came near to me, asking various questions, and when I was off my guard he gave me a blow on my stomach which laid me breathless on the ground. Not content with that, he took a Bible and gave me a blow on my left eye, as he said to deprive me of sight, besides which he beat me so that I could scarcely rise. A woman who was passing, seeing the condition to which I was reduced, helped me and remonstrated strongly with the priest. My face was covered with blood and the bystanders wished to take me to one of their houses, but I preferred going with the woman, who accompanied me to the police, and they took me to the hospital, for I was in a pitiable state.

“‘The eye was much swollen, and I was sore all over from the injuries I had received. I found my watch broken in my pocket, and have been obliged to sell it for the value of the silver. From the Depositary, and from different members of the church, I have received much sympathy and kindness.”