

of copies of the Scriptures. Whether in towns or villages, the Bible was the book for which people applied to our Colporteurs, in the country districts it was the New Testament, for the fact was, that both in the towns and in the country districts a considerable number of Roman Catholics were curious to see whether the Pope was right in appealing to the Scriptures to justify his discovery. Twelve old soldiers became Scripture distributors and met with marked success. In six months, thirty-eight thousand five hundred and seventy-two copies were distributed by the Society among the soldiers in the French army." The authorities, after fully investigating the subject, became the protectors of the Colporteurs, evidently perceiving that the only result which could flow from such labors would be an increase of morality, and, consequently, an improvement in the discipline of the army. That a work is being done even among the Roman Catholic priesthood of France, will appear from the following letter by one of them to a Colporteur:—

"Dear friend," says the curé, "I thank you very affectionately for the kind sentiments which you express; the fresh knowledge which I have recently acquired of men and worldly things will draw me nearer to God and evangelical life, and I shall profit by my exile and my isolated position to nourish myself more assiduously than ever with the word of God, and to imbibe more of the mind of our Divine Master."

He had been removed from a parish to which he was attached, and where he was beloved, and where he spread and preached the Gospel, by way of punishment.

The Russian prisoners received with gratitude copies of the word of God. On hearing of the arrival of some new Testaments in the Finnish language a Lieut. Colonel was quite delighted. "There will surely be, at least, one for me," he said, and at the same moment I placed one in his hands. His eyes sparkled with pleasure. "I cannot find words," said a lady who had accompanied her husband, "to express how delighted I feel at this present."

Equally interesting incidents might be given, showing the progress of the work in Belgium, Holland, Germany, Norway, Sicily, Italy, Turkey, and other countries did the time permit. Indeed, it would be difficult to find a country in the old or new world that has not been reached by the British and Foreign Bible Society. Who, on beholding these things, is not disposed to thank God and take courage. What an honor to be connected with such a Society, to be engaged in such a work. Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable goodness.

Your Committee trust that the members of the Society will awake to a deeper view of their responsibility, and that, with funds in hand and intelligence to guide their distribution, they may, in a spirit of prayer and faith, prosecute the work with fresh vigor and look for blessed results.

AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE THREE RIVERS BRANCH BIBLE SOCIETY,
HELD IN THE WESLEYAN CHAPEL, ON THE 17TH JULY, 1856.

Andrew Craik, Esq., Vice-President, in the Chair.

The Rev. G. D. Ferguson implored the Divine blessing, after which, the Chairman having stated the object of the meeting, the Secretary was requested to read the report of the Society's proceedings for the preceding year, and he then read the following