

THE DÜSSELDORF EXHIBITION.

This exhibition assumed dimensions far beyond what had been expected, as many as 40,000 tickets being sold in one day. As the multitudes streamed in, it was felt by the Agent of the Society, as well as by Christian friends at Düsseldorf, that some effort must be made for them. Authority was at once obtained from London; Pastor Imhäuser undertook to negotiate with the Council of the Exhibition, and such was his influence that in twenty-four hours the arrangements were made. The Bible stand was brought from Wiesbaden, and senior colporteur Weiser took charge of it. Mr. C. Marriott, by the exercise of great tact and energy, overcame all difficulties with the police, and the work began. The stand was opposite the principle entrance, so that every one who entered to the Exhibition from the town side had to pass it.

The work lasted through the months of July, August, and September. In that time there were sold 118 Bibles, 320 Testaments, and 101 portions, and given 47,187 portions. In his report, the Rev. G. Palmer Davies says:—

“ LIGHT AND SHADE

alternate in the experiences of those engaged. In the first weeks, the thing was new and strange. The police watched it very closely, and now and then threatened trouble. Then one day the power of evil seemed to be let loose. Fanatics and sceptics took the books, tore them to pieces, and scattered the leaves to the winds till the ground looked as if it had ‘snowed Bibles.’ The friends were discouraged. But when I inquired carefully into the matter, it turned out that while up to that time 21,000 copies had been distributed, the number of copies torn on that fatal day, and in single copies before and after, was not even 100! Later, it ceased altogether. When it was attempted, in many cases the bystanders interfered; in one case

THE POLICE,

in the following not unamusing manner:—

“A gentleman was offered a Gospel. He declined, and went on to the Exhibition gates; then, suddenly turning back, he went to our friend, who was carrying on his work in his quiet Christian way, and asked for a copy. He no sooner got it than he tore it to pieces and scattered the leaves on the ground, his countenance glowing with hate and contempt. But a surprise, which neither he nor anybody else expected, was in store for him. A policeman stepped up, seized him by the arm, and said, ‘What right have you, sir, to make such a litter at the Exhibition gates? I saw the whole transaction. Nobody forced the book on you. You walked deliberately back and asked for it. Who is to pick up these pages, you or I? The gentleman looked petrified, and, amidst the giggles of the bystanders, picked up the torn leaves one by one, put them into his pocket, and disappeared as quickly as possible among the crowd.

“So much for the shade: the

LIGHT AND JOY

were immeasurably greater.

“When the first 15,000 copies had been circulated, Weiser wrote:—

“‘Joy, joy on joy: such is my experience. The work is borne along on a full tide of blessing. The Lord is with us. Yesterday I offered a copy to a lady and her daughters; she repulsed me roughly. “I never take anything of the sort,” she said. I said, “Madame, you never take the Word of God?” “The Word of God?” she said; “pardon me, pardon me, I did not know it was that. Give me a copy, and my daughters too, as a memento of the Exhibition. I read my Bible every day. Excuse my rough answer.” I said, “Madame, I am too much accustomed to be repulsed to feel it deeply for my own sake. I out-grieve for the wrong people do themselves when they despise God’s Word.”’