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## LAYMEN'S WORK.

(Continued from page 7)

the Bible has been translated into hundreds of languages for the missionaries."

"There is such demand," flashed Stearnes, "that it is impossible to send Bibles to the ends of the earth fast enough. Such is the case in Korea, where the Bible has come to be looked upon as a national book, more than any other, and in Japan, where the educated classes consider it a requisite to have some knowledge of the Christian's book. It has been adopted as a text book in large areas of China in the new public school system, while the men of letters of India are reported as being better acquainted with the Scriptures than with their own sacred writings. Young men who come from other lands to America for an education generally wish a course in the Bible. About twenty nationalities, representing all the great non-Christian religions, were enrolled in Bible classes in America during the year before the war began."

"For my further satisfaction," urged Merrick, "I would like to account for the whole of the ten million Bibles. You spoke of your brother's khaki Testament. Possibly soldiers account for thousands of the Bibles. General Pershing, and, I believe, Foch, has declared that a Testament is about the most valuable article to put in a soldier's possession."

"Thousands, and then some," corrected Stearnes. "The American Bible Society and the British Society together, with many other agencies, cannot begin to print enough Bibles for soldiers. One concern, the Scripture Gift Mission, distributed nearly twenty million Bibles and portions thereof to men in uniform during the war. Their work was carried on in all languages. A 'Y' worker told me his general plan was to give every soldier who will accept it a copy of John's gospel. As he would hand him the tract he would tell the soldier to call at the office and get a complete Testament or Bible if he wished one. Of course many who called already had the copy of John's gospel, and both were counted in making up the totals."

"Upon my time," broke in Merrick, looking across the street. "Here comes an old Knight of the Grip. I know Piketon is getting in to join us to-morrow."

"Piketon," cautioned Stearnes, as the three shook hands, "I am about to make a convert out of Merrick. He reads everything, as you know, and I am trying to get him to read his Bible. By the way, Piketon, you are the very man to help me," he added as he touched the button on the lapel of the salesman's coat. "That pitcher picture ought to suggest something. Tell Merrick about your Gideons."

"I suppose the professor would claim that you put Bibles in hotels by the millions," suggested Merrick. "Not in quite so large numbers," responded Piketon. "Up to the present we have placed nearly four hundred thousand, and add more every month."

At Merrick's suggestion the three men stepped inside the book store and seated themselves in the "cozy corner." Here Piketon, weary from several days on the road, fell asleep, while the other two chatted away. For the most part the conversation consisted of quotations on the part of Stearnes from literary workers of all classes praising the form and style and diction of the literature that makes up the Old and New Testaments.

Finally Stearnes quoted from Dudley Warner, compiler of the world's best literature, in this language: "All modern literature is simply permeated with the Bible. There is scarcely a great work in the language that can be fully understood and enjoyed without a knowledge of it. A boy or girl at college without a fair knowledge of the Bible is an ignoramus and is at the greatest disadvantage."

As Stearnes made this last statement, Piketon aroused himself and with half open eyes asked, "Professor, did I understand you to call Merrick an ignoramus?"

"No, I was only quoting from Warner," laughed Stearnes.

"Come here, Stearnes!" cried a voice from the office at the rear. As Stearnes drew near, Merrick continued: "What sort of a Bible do you think I ought to get ordered? These folks say they are out of Bibles and simply cannot keep up with the demand since the Billy Sunday meetings. Everybody is buying Bibles. Bring one to camp to-morrow. I am

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