

result of personal observation.* The late Rev. Dr. de Sanetis, a parish priest of the Maddalena in Rome, a doctor of theology, a theologian of the Inquisition, a man of the highest character, was converted to the Gospel from Romanism by reading the Bible. What is his testimony? He says that he had, up to that time, known the Bible only by extracts, such as are to be met in the services of the Churches and in theological works.†

It is not twenty-five years since we find a distinguished English gentleman writing, "I have gone through the whole City of Rome, and I have visited all the book shops of that city, even those of second-hand booksellers. Not a copy of the Scriptures! Everywhere the same answer—*E proibito; non e permesso!* Only in two places was the edition of Martini offered me; but in twenty-four volumes, at the price of 105 francs."‡ And Dr. O'Connor thinks it is a slander that the Church of Rome discounts the circulation of the Scriptures!

One fact more must give. During the past winter, a bookseller, in this city, sent an order for 100 copies of the Douay Bible to Toronto, and then to Montreal, but failed, after the most energetic effort had been made to obtain them, to find in both cities one-third of the number!! Such is the ample supply which Romish booksellers, in Canada, think it necessary to keep on hand to meet the demand for Douay Bibles,—yet Dr. O'Connor regards it as a gross misrepresentation for us to say that the Church of Rome does not wish to see the Bible in the hands of her people!

These facts speak louder than words. The Romish priesthood are "wise in their generation." If the Bible were with them, they would be with the Bible. No dread of "religious vertigo" would keep them from doing what they have never yet ventured to do—give to the people the Bible, as God hath given it, *without note or comment*. The translation must not only receive a Romish colouring, but where that fails to conceal the truth of God, its plain meaning must be perverted by the notes which are appended. And after all these precautions have been taken, the people must be taught that it is a very dangerous book, never to be used without the express sanction of their pastors. The secret of all this dread of the Word of God is not far to seek. *The doctrines of the Church of Rome are not the doctrines of the Bible, and no man ever found them there.*

* Romanism at Home, p. 117.

† Gaussen, p. 515.

‡ H. Seymour's Mornings with the Jesuits, p. 153.