

of which remain closed, for want of worshippers. The city enjoys a world-wide fame owing to the fabulous mineral wealth which has been extracted from the neighboring mountain, bearing the same name.

The population, which numbers thirty or forty thousand, is largely occupied in the development of the mineral wealth of this region. Having known little or nothing of the Gospel up to the present, it is unfortunately largely given over to the fanaticism and the traditional rites and festivities of the Catholic faith.

One of the first things that I did after getting settled in our new quarters was to visit the Prefect of the Department, advising him of the fact that I had been appointed pastor of the Evangelical Mission about to be established in the city, and requesting his good-will and protection. I also paid my respects to the other authorities of the city, and presented to them letters of introduction which I had brought from friends in La Paz, being well received by all.

I began my propaganda by distributing from house to house several thousand copies of "El Amigo de la Verdad," all of which were well received this first time and eagerly read. But on the occasion of my second visit, some turned me away, others enquired more fully into the real object of my mission, and either expressed their approval or else spoke disparagingly of our religion.

In the month of July I distributed among the more intellectual classes a large number of copies of a tract published by Mr. Baker, entitled: "The Reasons Why I Am a Protestant." This tract awakened so much interest in the city that finally the clergy began to arouse themselves from their lethargy, and, through the columns of their paper, gave out to the public a very bitter article dishonoring Luther, Calvin, Henry VII., and protesting that

these men had been so unspeakably corrupt that their histories could only be written properly with mud.

In a second article they attacked me and announced to the public that, being a disciple of Luther, I had come to the city with the express purpose of perverting the people and of preaching the god of riches and matter; and that the final result of my propaganda, if not immediately put to an end, would be to encourage the grossest public immorality.

In order to defend the honor of the cause and of the Master, I found myself under the obligation of answering these two articles. I first of all sought in prayer the direction and help which I so much need, as I do not pretend to possess great literary talents, but only to be a humble laborer of the Lord. I wrote in our defense two articles which one of the Potosi papers was kind enough to publish free of charge. I felt constrained to make the second of these more vigorous than the first and referred to a recent well-known scandal which took place in the city of Sucre, where the Prior of the Franciscan Monastery eloped with a certain young lady with whom he had become acquainted in the confessional, relieving the monastery treasury at the same time of a large amount of gold. This last article heaped so much shame and reproach upon the Catholic clergy that they immediately refrained from publishing any further attacks against us.

Owing to this open opposition, I had to move more carefully for several months, seeing that I discovered that the friars were working stealthily against me, especially among the women, who are always their last resort in everything.

One of those who most persistently dogged my footsteps was an elderly lady, who also happened to be a near neighbor of ours. She never tired of