

ation of the case till the next meeting of Synod."

REPORT OF POPEERY.

This Report was submitted by Rev. N. McKay:

The duties of this committee are twofold. To them is committed, first, the oversight of the general subject of Popery—and second, the management of the Acadian Mission.

It is not necessary in this Report to make any lengthened allusion to the general subject. The members of this committee understand the nature and know the history of Romanism too well to need instructions at the hand of any committee. Still, it is proper, and perhaps necessary, to call attention to some of the aspects which it has recently assumed.

Last year we were struck with the advent of the long predicted event of the downfall of the temporal power, and we were privileged to stand and behold the sceptre which his predecessors had swayed for more than twelve centuries, falling from the nerveless hands of Pius the Ninth. The prestige of past centuries of greatness—the anxious care of a devoted occupant—the flatteries of puerile admirers failed to save for the so-called Chair of St. Peter even a fragment of former greatness. To-day the successor of the Gregories, Alexanders and Leos is no better than a pensioner upon the bounty of a government which he has anathematised and a son whom he has excommunicated. He who was wont to make the nations tremble with a frown and to control the movements of armies with a breath, sits to-day disconsolate over the ruins of vanished power, and amuses the world, and shocks the Christian church, by the bitterness of his maledictions.

Finding the temporal element crumbling, the powers of Romanism made a desperate clutch at the spiritual. The Council of 1869-70 will be infamous and ridiculous in history for the farce of investing one weak, even among men, with an attribute which belongs only to God. The result is even as might have been expected. Within the church of Rome itself elements of dissension have unexpectedly appeared. Austria has repudiated the concordat, and Bavaria has gone into spiritual antagonism, under the leadership of her illustrious Dollinger. We do not claim these results as great Protestant victories. These indeed are results with which Protestants have had little to do. But they augur well for Protestantism. The boasted unity of Romanism, secured by the expulsion of Dollinger and Hyacinthe and others of their class, is dearly bought, especially when

the affections of millions go out with the ostracised. It is a species of spiritual surgery which results in depletion and decrepitude. But the downfall of Romanism is not necessarily the triumph of Evangelical truth. The tendency of Romanism is to promote the growth of infidelity, to prejudice the partially enlightened mind against Christianity altogether. It is necessary to enter upon the emancipated lands as mission fields, and teach the people the knowledge of a true Christianity. The churches are not slow to acknowledge this fact, or to act upon it, for two days after the troops of Victor Emmanuel, a Waldensian Missionary, entered Rome; and the Protestant church of Italy is taking a noble revenge for ages of suffering and wrong which she endured at the hands of the Romish church.

In these Provinces but little change is marked in the usual course of Popery. Its chief efforts are directed to the controlling of education. It is the avowed antagonist of common schools seeking, as in Nova Scotia, in defiance of law and right to undermine and destroy their efficiency, and seeking, as in New Brunswick, in the Legislature, and on the platform, and through the press, to defeat every effort for their introduction. It is satisfactory to contemplate that in New Brunswick at least its efforts have been fruitless, and that, despite all political caballing in the interests of Romanism and sectarian education, we shall soon stand abreast of our neighbours in the possession of an efficient system of Free unsectarian common schools.

The Evangelical efforts put forth under the management of the Committee since last Report embraced the services of Messrs. Rivard and Broulette during a little more than two months last season, and the services of Messrs. Paradis and Peltier, from the middle of April to the present time. A report of the labours of the Missionaries last year is herewith submitted, and the Missionaries for the present season are present to answer for themselves. They have placed in the hands of the Committee a good deal of interesting information. They laboured about two months and a half among the French Acadians of Westmoreland and Kent Counties in this Province. A part of the field had been previously visited by Messrs. Rivard and Broulette last year. They found many of the books sold by their precursors still in the hands of the people, and in some instances much interest elicited by their perusal. Three young men have renounced Romanism, and are now attending the ministrations of a member of this Synod. The missionaries sold all their stock of scriptures (some six dozen of Bibles and Testaments). Others are enquiring, and more fruit is hoped for in the future.