

During the past year, a committee, composed of some of the best scholars in the English Church, together with a few representative men from what that Church designates "the sects," has been engaged in revising our Old and New Testament Scriptures. We have already protested against the principle—if principle it can be called—upon which a Unitarian was made a member of such a committee. The Irish Episcopal Church is meditating a new version of the Prayer Book, in which very necessary work we wish them God-speed. Mr. Gilfillan also thought it high time to subject our Confession of Faith to revision, this being a revising age; but his project met with little encouragement from those whose opinions ought to have been of any value in Mr. Gilfillan's eyes.

Crossing the channel, war meets our first footstep. Fearful of his hold upon the affections and sympathies of the French people, Louis Napoleon entered upon an unreasonable and wicked war with what he intended to be the single arm of Prussia, but which turned out as the whole German Empire, Austria excepted. Little more than a month decided the contest, and saw the emperor a prisoner with 200,000 of his soldiers. Still the struggle continues around the walls of Paris, and feebly in distant parts of the empire. Deplored as this war has been, and is, and will be for long years to come, there are yet many features in it which draw forth our Christian sympathies, and encourage faith in the vigour of our Protestant religion. We do not mean in Germany. Christianity there is at a very low ebb indeed. It is as low as Mr. Voysey, on the one hand, and Mr. Mackonochie, on the other, would make it in England, if they had their own way. It did seem, at the commencement of the war, as if the Germans were waking up, and as if spiritual worship were about to be revived; but it was only a dream, and, like a dream, has passed away. God has, doubtless, some sorer trial in store for Germany, that shall bring her Luthero-Calvinistic, Erastian and Rationalistic Church to its senses, for she seems to have lost this opportunity, and, so far, to have rejoiced in, rather than humbled herself under the chastisement. The active Christian work that has been brought out by the war has been performed, in great measure, by foreigners, or under their direction. Our own noble mother country, in at least two of her three kingdoms, has been foremost; the United States, Switzerland and Holland, have assisted. Opportunities for distributing the Scriptures, or portions of them, and of bringing home religious truths, such as had not offered themselves for many years, have been presented to the many missionaries in France and Germany; and who can tell how great may be the results of their devoted labours! The Ecumenical Council dared to publish to the world the decree of Infallibility, after large numbers of protesting bishops had left St. Peter's and gone home. Shortly after this dogma had been proclaimed, the war between France and Germany withdrew the imperial troops from the eternal city, and the soldiers of the Italian kingdom marched in, establishing religious liberty, and bringing Protestant worship within the walls of Rome. Recent events have so much disturbed the world, and occupied men's minds, that the dogma of the Council has not been discussed as otherwise it would have been; but time will show that, by this act, the Papacy has shorn itself of some of its brightest ornaments, and much of its strength.

In Spain, the work of reformation has been quietly going on, and the cause of truth steadily gaining ground in spite of much opposition. The election of the Duke of Aosta to the throne of the distracted kingdom is a guarantee that liberal counsels will prevail in Spanish government. The