

persecutions have lasted for years and have cost human lives. The Czar is no doubt a benevolent monarch; but he has to regulate an immense Empire, and cruelties and disorders may prevail in some sections which escape his notice. It is probable that the Evangelical Alliance will intervene on behalf of the sufferers.

In Germany the great conflict of ages is going on with unabated keenness. The Ultramontane conspiracy is being worked out with sagacity and perseverance; but the Government, backed by an immense majority of the people, is carrying out the law with a firm hand. Bishops, archbishops, and other ecclesiastics are fined as the case may require. They are really officials paid by the State, and it is surely not a strange thing that the State should claim the power of controlling and regulating their movements.—The same struggle exists in Switzerland, and to some extent in Austria. The cry of persecution is raised by the Church of Rome, but really without any adequate cause.

In France Ultramontanism seems to be triumphant. The Archbishop of Paris, one of the most bigotedly narrow of the Pope's servants, stood beside President MacMahon, during the State reception on New Year's Day. The clerical journals exult over this as a proof of their ascendancy.

Protestantism in France is a weak thing,—it has been weak these two centuries and more,—ever since its leaders were driven to prison, to the scaffold, or into exile by the arm of Papal tyranny. Heresy has crept into its ranks, reducing its strength still more; and it is so divided that for any purposes of evangelistic aggression it is almost a nullity.

Spain is once more under a Bourbon sovereign, blest by the Pope. Quite consistently with the Papal doctrine and spirit, the first acts of the new regime were acts of persecution against Protestants. Yet no cry has been raised by the journals that talk so fluently about persecution in Germany!—We hope the good seed is so widely scattered and deeply rooted in Spain that it can never be destroyed whatever acts of temporary tyranny may be indulged

in by a priest-led Government. This reactionary movement is an incentive to the disciples of Christ to be up and doing while opportunities for work are presented by a benign Providence.

In Italy the Government is still under the ban of the Pope, and it is still "spoiling" the church-property. The latest reports of Evangelistic work speak very favourably of the missionary enterprises of the Waldenses. The almost universal verdict is that too many different sects and societies are operating in the city of Rome. They interfere with each other and give the enemy cause to speak evil of what is easily misunderstood and perverted.

Coming to England, we find that the absorbing topic is Mr. Gladstone's tremendous assault upon the Papacy. Numerous replies have been attempted, but none has yet appeared to prove that a man can at the same time be loyal to his country and to the "infallible" Pope of Rome. A few influential Roman Catholics have publicly repudiated "the infallibility of the Pope." Others maintain that dogma, and interpret it mildly. The bolder even declare in so many words that in a conflict between the Pope and the Queen they would obey the Pope. Romanism has never met with so overwhelming an exposure in two centuries. The excitement caused in the United States, in Germany, and in other countries is only second to that caused in England.

The Disestablishment Question has started in earnest in Scotland. The Church and United Presbyterians are in a common cause against the established connection between Church and State. A minority of Free Churchmen stand by the Establishment, and are anxious to re-unite with it. The ministers of the Established Church take up the question of State connection in a very earnest manner. The struggle will be long and momentous.

The work of grace in connection with the preaching of Mr. Moody still continues in Scotland, Ireland, England, appearing equally favoured.

Thus swiftly we have surveyed the prospect of the religious world. Reader,