

## HOW ROME TREATS THE BIBLE.

During the month of November two Capuchin monks preached a mission in Larangeiras, a town in the province of Sergifo, Brazil, where there is a small nucleus of Protestants belonging to the Presbyterian Church. "Protestants and their religion of the devil" was the theme of their preaching until they were advised by the authorities to be more respectful. During the mission the monks wished to teach the people an object-lesson on the proper treatment of Protestants and their odious literature; to this end the people were commanded to bring the Bibles, Testaments, gospels, and any book or tract which they had bought or received from the Protestants and they, the monks, would give the lesson promised. The people, ever ready to obey the "holy men," brought their books and tracts, two baskets full. A procession was formed, by the monks, to the top of a high hill, where a few days before a great cross had been planted. 'Twas about sundown, when a large fire was kindled at the foot of this cross; as the flames leaped into the air a Bible would be opened, and as it was being thrown into the flames the people would shout the name of some one of the Protestants, as much as to say, here goes the body of so-and-so into the flames. Thus a number of Bibles, Testaments, books and tracts were burnt.—*Sel.*

## A STRONG CHURCH.

"Is it a strong congregation?" asked a man, respecting a body of worshippers.

"Yes," was the reply.

"How many members are there?"

"Seventy-six."

"Seventy-six! Are they so very wealthy?"

"No; they are poor."

"How, then, do you say it is a strong church?"

"Because," said the gentleman, "they are earnest, devoted, at peace, loving each other, and striving together to do the masters work. Such a congregation is strong, whether composed of five or five hundred members."

Kansas with 100,000 more population than Texas, has one penitentiary, with 996 prisoners, while Texas has two large prisons with 3,000 convicts. Kansas has prohibition. Texas has not.

## "ALL MY SPRINGS ARE IN THEE."

He who finds in this life supreme comfort in God is as truly His own as when in the hereafter "the Lamb shall lead unto living fountains of waters." Sorrows may be his portion here; the sun may be obscured; the way may lead him through tangled thickets or over rocky ledges; still, for him, "waters shall break out, and streams in the desert." The glowing heat of summer may parch the ground, every green thing may perish about him, the mountain springs may completely fail; but that water which our Saviour giveth him "shall be in him, a well of water springing up into everlasting life." Gushing forth from immeasurable depths, its crystal currents shall never vary in fulness, though the earthly drought be so distressing that "the poor and needy seek water and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst." It is written: "I the Lord will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water."

## BLESSINGS OF RELIGIOUS READING.

Consider the value of such literature in the home. It effectually arrests the currents of secular thought after the labors of a busy week are over; Who can estimate the importance of this even from a worldly point of view? Without some kind of wholesome interruption, experienced at regular periods, no man can very long endure the strain on nerve and brain. He needs something more than a daily cessation from exhausting toil; absolute deliverance he must have in order to the best possible fitness for future work. Nothing will accomplish this so well as the religious book or newspaper read in the home circle during the evening hours, read where the dearest companions of his life may share with him in the common blessing.—*Sel.*

There are now twenty-seven vessels engaged in missionary work in different parts of the world under the auspices of sixteen societies; of these missionary vessels sixteen are running on the coasts or rivers of Africa, and six among the islands of the Pacific Ocean.