

inhabitants, all Catholic except five families. It is to protect these five families, two of which only occasionally reside in the district, against the religious propaganda, that the authorities oppose the opening of a Protestant school. The prefectoral decree declares that tranquility would be disturbed in the commune of Villefavard, because all the children in the country would be instructed in a religion different from that of a dozen among them. The five orthodox families of Villefavard must be very intolérant and very influential to bring down the strong hand of the prefect in this manner.

The Protestant schools of the Evangelical Society, arbitrarily closed since 1852, were on the eve of being re-opened, when they received another arbitrary check. All seemed to bid fair for freedom; the Minister of Public Instruction had informed one of the members of the Evangelical Commission deputed to that effect, that the suspended schoolmasters should express to the proper authorities their intention to re-commence their labours, in order that the schools should be opened with his sanction. This was done, and the Prefect opposed the opening of the school at Limoges,—I have not yet heard the fate of the others,—under the plea that Repelin, the schoolmaster, being an agent of the Evangelical Society, would be less a teacher than a propagandist of religion, which would disturb the public peace and tranquility of the town of Limoges! This is the more strange, as the school is in the same building as the Protestant place of worship, where the parents of the scholars stately assemble. A full statement of the case has been laid before the Minister, and a copy of it has been sent to the Prefect, to place before the Departmental Council, called upon to judge these cases. Your readers are aware that the Protestants of the department have persevered for nine years in employing itinerant teachers, to give their children that imperfect instruction that can be conveyed in a few hours a week, rather than send them to schools where, with a more complete education, they would have been taught prayers and principles in contradiction to the Bible.—*Edinburgh Witness.*

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#### THE DEAD SEA.

One's first feeling on gaining the beach, and looking out on the vast expanse of its rippling waves dancing brightly in the sun, and reflecting the glorious blue of the cloudless heavens, is one of surprise at finding so little to distinguish it from any other lake or sea. There can be no doubt, however, that much of the pleasing impression thus produced is due to the fact, that after riding four hours beneath a broiling sky and over a burning soil, the very sight of water affords an enjoyment of the intensest kind. It is necessary only to stand for a little by the side of that sea, and contemplate the depressing loneliness and desolation that reign around, in order to realize the character that truly belongs to it. Not one solitary skiff sails that sea—not one solitary fish swims in its waters—not one solitary human habitation, far as the eye of telescope can range, can be descried within sight of its shores—no sustenance for either man or beast, neither grass nor grain does the sterile region by which it is encircled yield. And yet this is the very region that was once the paradise of the land. Truly "Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities about them . . . are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire." And yet sterile and dreary as is even this northern end of the lake, the aspect of the country around its southern shores is more repulsive still. It is, therefore, literally "all the plain," from the one extremity to the other, which God has overthrown.

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#### THE MAGAZINE.

In another page will be found a letter from an esteemed friend recommending the continuance of the magazine. We have already said we would be happy to continue its publication, if that could be accomplished without loss. We would be pleased to have the opinion of some of our friends on the subject, during the present month, as a determination must be come to very soon, respecting the course we are to pursue.—*Ed.*