

McAll finds Testaments burned in Paris ; yet both these men were sent of the Master to their fields ; and each by much the same instrumentality.

August the eighteenth, 1871, Mr. Robert W. McAll, a Scotch Congregational minister, who had been a pastor in England for some years, was standing with his wife, giving away some French tracts in Belleville, the workmen's quarter of Paris, when a man he knew not, and of whom he never heard afterwards, stepped up to him, and spoke in very good English, what the Macedonian said to Paul in provincial Greek. "Sir," said this Frenchman, "are you not a Christian minister ? To a man, *we have done* with an imposed religion, a religion of superstition and oppression ! But if any one would come to teach us religion of another kind—a religion of freedom and earnestness—*many of us are ready to listen !*" And so Mr. McAll, now getting old, tall and spare, with much of Thomas Guthrie in his general look, (and still more in his ways of working) is in France, toiling at the foundations of what will be, sometime, a noble structure to God's praise !

Hodder and Stoughton, London, have just got out a volume, giving details of the work to the end of last year : "A cry from the Land of Calvin and Voltaire." We did not buy it, but we presume the price to be about 2s. 6d. It would be a good book to be in every one of our families and S. S. libraries.

"Wife," said a French business employee, after he had dropped in accidentally at one of the McAll meetings, "*I have found out a new religion !* Such a religion as I had no idea existed. You must come also and learn all about it." The man and his family all came into the movement, and he died a year after in the triumph of faith. Mr. McAll settled down and lived seven years in Belleville. He began and has continued, on an undenominational basis. In 1885 there were 12,357 meetings for adults ; with an aggregate attendance of 800,000. Of all religious meetings, 16,048 with very nearly a million of aggregate attendance ; and 400,000 tracts, Gospels, etc., circulated. A convenient hall is found : it is seated and lighted, and the plain striking truths of the Gospel are urged in a popular and friendly way upon the people. And this is in hundreds of instances and in many places. A lady is in charge

of the door, and gives hymn-books for use to those who will take them for the time. This explains what a wondering guest said when he had been at one of these meetings. He had offered to pay for the use of the chair he sat on, the use of the hymn-book, and the tract he had received at the close. But no—"nothing !" Gasping, he goes out, and unburdens himself to the man at the door. "Well, see that ! and that ! and that ! and the chair, and the hymn-book, and the discourse, and the lady,—all for *nothing* ! It is I who *am happy* !" And then they have mother's meetings, and house-to-house visitation—a thing the French had never experienced before. Mrs. Dodds, (daughter of Rev. Horatius Bonar, whose husband fell at his post helping McAll), says :

"People are touched and astonished when you seek them out. No one ever did so before, they say. And then they are so delightfully *naïve* in their ignorance. They don't in the least know how you expect them to talk, and therefore you get their real thoughts. The oddest sayings come out without their knowing that they are saying anything strange. Their ignorance is saddening, but it gives you this advantage : that you know how to reply. 'No, I have never sinned,' said a woman indignantly. 'To be sure,' she added, 'I have sometimes said my fish was fresh when it wasn't, but then God knew that it was for my interest, and he will not blame me.' 'I have never done anything to merit so much suffering,' is one of the commonest sayings. 'I try to do all the good I can. I hope in that way to atone for some faults I have committed,' said one. 'Don't tell me that my sufferings are not meritorious,' cried a much-tried woman ; 'you take away the only consolation I have under them.' Being told of the merits of the Saviour, she replied thoughtfully, 'yes, but it is possible to count too much on the merits of Jesus Christ.' Such are these people's real unvarnished thoughts about sin and salvation."

With a little story of a small boy, showing how superstition takes hold of the marvellous and the realistic in a child's nature, and how heavenly truth might be thus introduced instead of it, we shall close : merely saying that if any reader would render help to so worthy a work, perhaps the most convenient way would be to send to Mrs. J. W. Longacre, *Foreign Secretary*, or to Miss Frances Lea, *Treasurer*, of the Am. McAll Assoc., 1622 Locust St., Philadelphia.

At one of the children's meetings, the teacher had been explaining prayer, and recommending to the children to ask for spiritual blessings ; making