

the continued existence of those isolated non-Catholic congregations, cut off, too, as they have ever been, from all intercourse or connexion with Protestant brethren in foreign lands, may well excite our admiring astonishment.

The Protestant pastors of the present day must resort for their education to Vienna, where a Protestant theological faculty has existed for the last twenty years. It possesses five professorships, with salaries (paid by government) of from 1,500 to 2,000 gulden* per annum (or from £150 to £200 sterling), and also some bursaries for poor students. The theological course is fixed at three years (the subject for study being exactly prescribed), and at the end of each year a public examination is held and testimonials of progress and conduct bestowed. What we should call a clerical examination with a view to pastoral qualifications is unknown, yet, when a candidate, on completing his course of study, presents himself for ordination before the Consistory Superintendent, that functionary subjects him to an ordination trial before admitting him to holy orders. The consistory, which has its seat likewise in Vienna, consists of a president (who must be a member of the Roman Catholic communion) two clerical members, and one lay Protestant member, as counsellors. These offices are at the present time filled by the Austrian Privy Counsellor, Count de Hohenwart, the Rev. Messrs. Gunesch and Professor Stähliu, and Landrath de Kaler.

Under the direction of the consistory officiate two Superintendents, the one for the Protestant churches of Lower Austria, Styria, and Carinthia, the other for the congregations of Upper Austria. The inspection of the schools is committed to the care of a Protestant clergyman, who, while holding that office, is distinguished by the title of Senior.

Respecting the number of congregations in Styria and Carinthia, I have not as yet been able to obtain certain information, but all accounts concur in painting their situation as one of grievous desolation. Scattered at far intervals in the mountain gorges, their pastors (chiefly unordained Hungarian students of theology), almost unsalaried, their religious life is described as at the lowest ebb; and from their isolated and dispersed position, deprived of all awakening or encouraging influence from without, the poor people seem alike unable, and indifferent to cultivating intercourse even with each other.

In Vienna itself there are three Protestant congregations, set over a population of nearly

20,000 souls; besides whom, however, there exists (as far as is known to me) but one Lutheran Congregation in Lower Austria—viz., that of Witterberch, with its affiliated villages."

In Upper Austria there are twelve congregations, containing 16,300 members.

Prussia.

There has been a considerable secession from the Established Church. Pastor Ulich, of Magdeburg, and many more, have withdrawn, on doctrinal grounds. They appear to be Anti-Trinitarian in their views. A petition, with 20,000 signatures, was presented to the king, praying that the rehearsal of the Apostles' Creed might be omitted in the public services, and in administering the rites of baptism and confirmation. The king gave an extempore reply, in the negative; and shortly afterwards the separation took place.

Evangelical religion, it is stated, is making good progress in Prussia.

Turkey.

The Sultan has issued a Firman, by which all converts to Protestantism in Turkey are to be secured the enjoyment of civil and religious freedom, and "not to be molested one iota" in regard to the profession of their religion. The persevering efforts of Lord Cowley, British Ambassador at Constantinople, have been chiefly instrumental in procuring this measure. It is a signal triumph over bigotry and intolerance.

India.

The Rev. W. C. Mackay, Missionary of the Free Church, has published a pamphlet entitled "A Warning from the East; or, the Jesuits in India." He observes, that till recently the Roman Catholics of Calcutta possessed scarcely any influence; but that within the last twelve years a great change has taken place.

"Where all was torpor, all is now life and activity; colleges, schools, nunneries, English preaching, spring up as if by magic. The Roman Catholic clergy already outnumber those of any other persuasion. They have an archbishop, a bishop, and a numerous and rapidly increasing brotherhood and sisterhood, lay and ecclesiastical. Protestant children are now to be found in their schools; and very lately there was a college for the education of the natives entrusted to the fostering care of the Jesuits."

* An Austrian gulden is nearly a possible two shillings sterling.