

shocking to be mentioned. It was a pre-conceived plan, and the rebels installed themselves in the town. On hearing the news the Prefect started from — with troops, but met with a stout resistance. He sent back for re-inforcements, and even then had to send for further help, and after all, literally, had to storm the town. The rebels fell back to the mountains, having some twenty or more dead. The Prefect made several prisoners, and shot eight of them on the spot. The state we are now in is just this:—The whole neighbourhood is in a commotion; the Prefect, with all the available troops, has gone in pursuit of the rebels, leaving the city protected only by a few police, and rumors are flying that all this is a feint attack in order to draw the troops away, and so leave — open to the revolutionists. Here the Romaists seem happy at the prospect of a general rising against Liberals and Protestants. Some have even dared to shout against us in the streets, but the authorities have at once arrested them, as such cries act like sparks to set the whole city in a riot. So far as we are concerned, we leave the issue to our Heavenly Master; hitherto He has closed the mouths of these hungry lions. They have not frightened us off, nor will they 'ust yet."

It is the same strange, sad lesson that comes from all Papal countries—the Papal authorities and the Papal mob thirsting for Protestant blood. What a stern and urgent plea in favour of evangelizing our Roman Catholic population!

RESOLVE

In view of past unfaithfulness to be more faithful during the year on which we have entered. Opportunities are daily passing away from us never to return. During the current year you must endeavour to make up in some degree for past remissness. What have you done for your family? What example have you set before them? Were you all the year a *LIVING EPISTLE* of Christ—an Epistle which your children, your friends, your parents, all with whom you came into contact—could easily read? Resolve, to ask for the Holy Spirit to write more clearly, more readably, upon you the character of the Lord Jesus.

What have you done for the congregation—to promote its life, its strength, its peace? Now is the time to ask, and to search your

history as with a candle, till you find out. Have you attended the preaching of the Word with due regularity? Have you had due regard to the Prayer Meeting and the Sabbath School? Now is the time to judge yourself, lest you should be condemned. Resolve that in the future you shall improve on the past.

How have you used your means in God's service? Or, let us put it in this way, have you been a faithful steward in your disposal of God's property placed under your hand? Some men like excuses for not paying money into the Treasury of the Church. They "do not like their minister." "That Elder is not as good as he should be." "That member of the congregation voted wrong at the last election." "John Brown's son will get the benefit of the money I pay for the College." "Such and such a man is *not sound*." O Brother, if you have ever caught yourself making such paltry excuses—building up such base subterfuges—in the sight of the living God who searches the hearts, hang your head for shame, beg forgiveness of Him whom you have mocked, and amend your ways. Resolve at once, and carry your resolution into action. Resolve to give during the present year as you never gave before to forward the good cause which needs your help.

Resolve to pray more—to study God's revealed will more diligently—to walk more steadfastly in every commandment of the Lord. Be not deceived; God is not mocked; whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap.

CHRISTIANS should in all things be models of well-doing. It is awful when a prominent member or officer of the church becomes a drunkard or falls into any other open sin. The triumph of Satan must be great when he sends a Church member home to his poor wife staggering, reeling, a miserable spectacle of weakness and vice. Still worse when the wretch who deliberately poisons himself with strong drink is a minister of the Gospel! Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. We have had warnings sad even if few; woe to us if we heed them not!