

Missionary Department.

MEXICO.

FOR many years this country was wholly inaccessible to Protestant missionaries. The Roman Catholic Church, with its well-known exclusiveness, held possession of the country, and ruled with an iron hand. A better day has now dawned, and from the close proximity of the country to the United States, the Churches there have not been slow to avail themselves of the favourable openings that have been presented. Truth and error are now contending for the ascendancy. It is said that "Mexico, of all countries opposed to Vaticanism, is the most thorough and decisive. The legislation of last December withdraws all official recognition from the dominant Church. Processions through the streets, so dear to many ardent Catholics, are absolutely forbidden, except under the special supervision of the police. The police are to prevent obstruction in the public highway, and attacks on those heretic onlookers who refuse to uncover their heads as the procession passes. The ordinary monastic orders are suppressed, and the Sisters of Mercy are forbidden to carry out their works as a religious organization, or to go about in a distinctive dress. These measures have caused a reactionary combination amongst Catholic ladies of several of the principal towns, who have formed unions, the rule of which is to be on no terms of intimacy with even a father or husband who takes any part in carrying out the law as regards the Sisters of Mercy. The recent act of persecution at Acapulco, by which so many lives were lost, was a direct consequence of efforts to resist the law."

Rev. Mr. Hutchinson, the missionary in charge of Acapulco at the time of the outbreak, has returned to the scene of danger, and again set up the Gospel banner in the name of Christ. He writes hopefully in the *Missionary Herald*. During two months previous to the last Sabbath in September, 30 members were received into the Presbyterian church in the city of Mexico on examination, making a total of 123 members.

A Presbyterian church was also organized at Vera Cruz in November last, when 82 persons were received on examination.