

persistency of Protestant Bible societies in spreading the Scriptures, the Pope of to-day, Leo XIII, would have written a circular letter to recommend the reading of the Scriptures, with *indulgences* attached to that religious act? We think not. So the influence of Protestantism is gradually penetrating into the masses of Catholicism in many ways, but very differently from the movement at the time of the great Reformation, when nations were born in a day into the ranks of Protestantism. Great attempts at reformation were, during long centuries, often made but cruelly suppressed, until they burst forth in great power, more or less mixed up with political interests. It works very differently in our day, and we think with some advantages. It is not so superficial a work as that where masses are moved from one form of religion to another, and though spread much more universally, it is at the same time deeper and safer because more personal. Though for a long time apparently stationary, Protestantism revived because it had in itself the seed, the roots, the vigorous sap, which was sure some day, despite its many forms and sects, to become the great religious and spiritual power of the world.

When visited by gracious revival by the Spirit of God, as has been often the case, especially in our century, Protestantism has shown admirable examples of devoted lives and missionary work. The laborers, and the friends of the Grande-Ligne Mission must ever remember that they owe the remarkable beginning of this work to the blessed revival of spiritual religion among the Protestants of Europe, and especially of French Switzerland, about 1820. It then also penetrated largely among the reformed churches of France. You all know how small was the beginning here, and how difficult, and how courageous our first missionaries were in attempting to break through this solid mass of ignorance, prejudice and superstition, guarded by a powerful priesthood. In spite of all this they were the blessed instruments of the conversion of many souls, among them remarkable personalities of priests and others; in many different parts of the country, sometimes a good number of families in one parish, but never a whole parish, passed from Catholicism to Protestantism. After a few conversions the work is checked by great efforts of the priests, who are not scrupulous as to the means employed, as to the motives appealed to, personal interests, the sneering blame of the world all around them, and