

Europe.

In 1876 there were but 1,870 theological students in Germany; now there are 3,707 Protestants and 753 Catholics.

The Methodists own 38 chapels in France, and a total property valued at \$165,000. Altogether, they have 134 chapels and preaching stations, 29 ministers, 100 local preachers, and 2,000 members.

In Bavaria, where the Methodists have been forbidden by law to sing and pray in public, the king has now given them permission to hold religious services, and granted them all the rights of a private Church Society.

A letter-writer from Rome says the movement in favor of a "day of rest" gains ground there. The shopkeepers and jewellers are ready to close their places of business on Sunday, and an effort is to be made to persuade all trades to do this. The Radical and Clerical parties unite in this movement. A secular Sunday may lead to a Sunday spent in religious services.

Dr. Bliss, of Constantinople, reviewing the quarter of a century spent by him in Bible work, stated that during that period the combined circulation of the Scriptures in the Turkish Empire by the British and American Bible Societies amounted to 1,128,870 volumes in thirty languages, of which more than a million had been circulated by sale at an average price of about 2s. 2½d. per copy.

Protestant work in Italy has been afresh recognized by King Humbert. He has received recently a deputation from Protestants, inquired about their doctrines, and dismissing them, wished them "God speed." The royal family has received courteously, pamphlets and books exposing Romish errors and superstitions. A monk recently sent for Vaudois preacher to see a dying Belgian Protestant at a hospital. The other monks offered to prepare the elements for the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, to be administered by the Waldensian preacher. A papal "bull" prohibits religious discussion, but much of it goes on by the wayside.

In Erfurt, an old city of Saxony, Martin Luther was, four hundred years ago, a university student, and in Erfurt last week they opened the quadrennial observances by which Germany purposes to celebrate the work of her great reformer there. Historic processions filled the

streets where the young student once walked, and bands of singers celebrated the coming there of the man who has made the name of Erfurt famous. There also, in the library of the University, Luther found the chained Bible, in which lay the possibility of the Reformation and all the power and glories of Protestantism. The present autumn will be full of such memorial services, which are arousing much interest, showing that Germany still recognizes in the monk of Erfurt her greatest and noblest name.

The Pope is coming out more conspicuously than he has of late in the political arena. His letter on the Irish troubles has been the sensational epistle of the present year, and its echoes are still heard. He has lately made a protest against the policy of the government of France, in regard to the Church of which he is head. He points out "the painful position of the Church in France because of the policy of the Republic during the last few years. He says that laws, hostile to the Church, are now being prepared. He hopes that the pacific assurances given by France at various times really signify a desire to avoid a painful conflict which would be equally disastrous to both Church and State." It may be that the Pope fears the complete separation of Church and State, which many of the public men of France are urging with increasing earnestness. The times do not brighten for the "prisoner of the Vatican."—*Phil. Press.*

Britain.

The strength of the Free Church of Scotland is now 1,009 charges and 314,604 members—a net increase of 577 over last year.

The receipts of the Foreign Mission Committee of the Free Church of Scotland last year \$339,180, a gain of nearly \$60,000.

There have been so many burials in Westminster Abbey of late years that much difficulty is experienced in finding a vacant space for another grave.

The Established Church of Scotland now has 1,275 parish churches, and 110 chapels or unendowed churches, and 530,292 communicants.

Father Chiniquy says:—Among the best laid plans to Romanize the English people is the erection of a multitude of high schools, colleges, universities, seminaries and nunneries, which, like a net, are covering England and Scotland.