

to about one hundred and thirty communicants. A Ladies' Association and Committee for Assisting the Poor has been established, and the main point of education is not neglected. Religious discussions are held in the chapel once or twice a week, and a Roman Catholic champion has been found in the person of a priest named Tagliatela; and it is remarked as a great step that *pro* and *contra* arguments are used instead of the innovators being summarily disposed of. The Evangelical Association of Naples has a weekly organ in the press, aptly entitled the *Coscienza*, for the dissemination of its principles. The people in Naples had been taught to look on Protestants as Mahomedans or Atheists; but these impressions, after causing the Evangelicals many annoyances, are wearing away. The Evangelical associations profess to entertain purely religious motives in their separation from the Catholic faith, and no doubt many of their members are sincere converts; but the ardent nature of political feeling in Italy, and the desire to break down the Court of Rome by attacking its doctrines and throwing discredit on its hierarchy, have doubtless induced many others to join the new creed. Protestant schools of a popular character are meanwhile benefitting the lower orders, who, finding their children are taught to read, write, sew, and cipher without any expense, allow them to frequent the day schools of the Evangelical Associations, or those recently established by English residents in Naples, some of whom, ladies especially, attend every morning to superintend and instruct their juvenile classes in person.

DR. GUTHRIE TAKEN TO TASK.—Dr. Joseph Parker, a celebrated Independent minister of Manchester, in a discourse the other day remarked:—Dr. Guthrie, most genial and eloquent of men, has actually gone up to a tree and cursed it, and lo! the tree has not withered away! That great preacher has actually cursed the tobacco-plant. Yet, what think you? I should like to tell this in a whisper, but a whisper is impossible in this prodigious edifice—in the next sentence he candidly confessed that he himself took snuff. You see what he did! He cursed the tobacco-side of the plant, but not the snuff-side, and for that reason the plant did not shrivel into a cinder! You see how easy it is to go up and down the world attempting to wither trees that we really do not like, and how easy, as in the case of the illustrious preacher, to interpose between the axe and our favourite tree, exclaiming in piteous tones, "Let it alone this year also!" No, Sirs! We must be honest all round. The Church must not be partial in its verdict upon bad things. We must have honesty; and when the Church purges herself from iniquity and inconsistency—when she really means what she says—she will, with lightening-eye and thunder-breath, pronounce upon the world's upas, and the upas of the world will wither away!