

not only well versed in Scripture, but also familiar with the arguments of his opponents, and ready to refute them effectively. In his preaching he should carefully avoid any appearance of harshness and never use ridicule. Ridicule has never converted a soul to Christ. Paul's address to the Athenians is a model to follow closely in similar circumstances. Speak to your hearers of a different faith as unto wise men, calling upon them to judge of what you say. Rome boasts of its antiquity—Preach about the old paths. Your hearers want living water, ask them whether they prefer drinking from a ditch, which has received the drainage of eighteen centuries, or to do so from the living spring, flowing from Christ the Rock. Let the language used be that of every day life. Most Roman Catholics, among the common people, cannot understand what has been called "the language of Canaan," that Scripture reading has made so familiar to us. Public discussions would be of great use, if they could be held. But our experience of them is the same as that of Beza and his fellow pastors at the "Collogue de Poissy." You will invariably be interrupted by men "of the baser sort," hooted and insulted. Romanists seem to be incapable of discussing religion publicly with Protestants without resorting to such unchristian and ungentlemanly behaviour. Many Romanists are only so in name, being practically free-thinkers. Missionary preaching among them must, therefore, be aimed also at scepticism. Show the Gospel faith as holding the middle ground between superstition on the one hand, and infidelity on the other, and like Christ tell your hearers to beware equally of the leaven of the Pharisees, and the Sadducees.

Finally, there is much to be done by personal visitation. There cannot be too much of it. The French Roman Catholics are very accessible this way. Get acquainted with as many as you can. Visit them often, gain their confidence, and you will have all the opportunities you desire to tell them of "that much abused way," the faith of the Gospel. Read to them some part of Scripture. Point out its clearness, its beauty, its wisdom. Do not attempt too much at once. Line upon line, precept upon precept. In course of time end your visit by proposing to ask a blessing on what has been read—a proposal almost always complied with.

That this system of Evangelization is not a very defective one is proved by the fact, that during my own pastorate over a mission church among Catholics, for a space of about nine years, several hundreds of new members have been received, who had been until then Romanists. Let us add that our experience has taught us that the most successful work in evangelization has always been done by missionaries of the same origin and language as the people they preach to. This we believe is also the conviction of our eminent foreign missionary to Formosa, and of others who like him have practical knowledge of all connected with the subject of missions.

C. D.