

gard the "Marvellous English" Protestant Bible, as one of the strongholds of any heresy.

"Who will not say the uncommon beauty and marvellous English of the Protestant Bible is not one of the great strongholds of heresy in this country? It lives on the ear like a music that can never be forgotten,—like the sound of Church Bells which the convert knows not how he can forego. Its felicities often seem to be almost things, rather than mere words. It is part of the national mind, and the anchor of national seriousness. The memory of the dead passes into it. The potent traditions of childhood are stereotyped in its verses. The power of the griefs, and trials of man is hidden in its words. It is the representative of his best moments, and all that has been about him, of soft, and gentle, and pure, and penitent, and good, speaks to him for ever out of his English Bible. It is his sacred thing which doubt has never dimmed and controversy never soiled. In the length and breadth of the land, there is not a Protestant with one spark of religiousness about him, whose spiritual biography is not in his Saxon Bible."

BIBLES WANTED IN PORTO RICO.

A new field for Protestant mission work has been opened—the island of Porto Rico. Some time ago, on the occasion of its promulgation, we noticed the decree granting freedom of worship. It now appears that measures were at once taken by the Protestant residents to avail themselves of the new privilege. Subscription-lists were circulated, which soon made it manifest that there would be no pecuniary difficulties to encounter, and, late in November, the newly-formed congregation listened to the first Protestant service ever heard in the island. A clergyman—an Episcopalian—has been called for six months, and steps will immediately be taken toward the erection of a church. Among the Romanists, this check of their hitherto unquestioned sway awakens intense opposition. The writer of the account in the *Times*, of St. Thomas, which we have followed, says: "Sermons are being preached, in their church, of a most violent character, condemning Protestantism in all its details—clergy, Bibles, etc.; the effects of which sermons are, however, doing us a great deal of good, instead of the injury intended; and it is to be regretted that we as yet have no supply of translated Prayer-books and Bibles, as inquiries for them are frequent, all being anxious to read these so condemned works."

THE ABIDING WORD.

On the door of the old Mosque in Damascus, which was once a Christian church, but for twelve centuries has ranked among the holiest of the Mohammedan sanctuaries, are inscribed these remarkable words: "Thy kingdom, O Christ, is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations." Though the name of Christ has been regularly blasphemed, and the disciples of Christ regularly cursed for twelve hundred years within it, the inscription has nevertheless remained unimpaired by time. It was unknown during the long reign of Mohammedan intolerance; but when religious liberty was partially restored, and the missionaries were enabled to establish a Christian church in that city, it was again brought to light, encouraging them in their work of faith and labour of love.—

The services of the London Missionary Society in Madagascar, are now attended by about 30,000 natives in 148 different congregations. One hundred and twenty chapels are now in process either of building or enlargement. In Antananarivo, the city where the Queen resides, there are nine large churches.