

AN AFTER-WORD

least surprised to find that she was none of these? Why should we Protestants desire to make petty sectarian capital out of such a sad story as that "The Escap Nun" reveals? I should not have been in the least surprised if I had found that Mrs. Page's bitter experiences of Romanism had produced a total reaction against all forms of religion. That is what is happening to-day in hundreds of thousands of cases in France and other countries. No, from the intimate talk I had, I know that Mrs. Page has her own religion; she is endeavouring to get back to the fundamentals of the faith. We spoke of the witness of the Bible, the quite simple facts of the life of Jesus Christ—of how He quarrelled with the religious professors of His day, of how He preached simple faith and kindly deeds. Mrs. Page prefers to leave dogmatism to the dogmatic, and what she asks for is just peace. It is a pathetic spectacle—that of a woman who has been crushed in the iron machine of ecclesiasticism. Is it to be wondered at