

leader of the assault has been put under arrest.

At Milan eight new members have been received during the past year, and several probationers: Many have joined the female Bible circle among them a Baroness with her daughter.

In Rome the converted parochial priest of Perlo San Giorgio, Signor Cruciani, has begun his preaching services in connection with our Mission and with a success 'surpassing expectation.' An editorial in the *Fiaccola* says concerning him:

'His language is clear, penetrating, fervent, and at the same time simple and plain; so that when he has overcome the difficulties which always beset the first attempt at such a work we are quite confident that he will become, through the Divine Spirit, an instrument specially adapted for the diffusion of the Gospel and the conversion of his fellow countrymen.' His gentleness and tranquillity of spirit and affability of address are manifest toward all, but these are the least grounds of expectation concerning him. Hope is based chiefly upon the profound and spiritual consecration which seems to characterize him."

A TRIFLING PREACHER.

A minister once preached a very awakening sermon. A young man in the congregation was much impressed, and finding that the preacher was to walk some distance home, joined him, in the hope of having some conversation as how to be saved. The minister was walking with several others, and instead of conversation turning on religious matters it was light and even inecorous. Some years afterwards the preacher was called to see a dying man at an inn. As he entered the room the dying man started. "Sir," said he, "I have heard you preach." "Thank God for that." "But, sir," continued the man, "I have heard you talk, and your talking has ruined my soul. Sir, do you remember the day I heard you preach? That sermon brought conviction to my heart. But I sought conversation with you, hoping to hear something about my soul's peace, but you trifled—trifled—trifled. Yes, you did, and I went home, believing that you knew all the solemn things you said in the morning were lies. For years I was an infidel; but now—now I am dying—I am one no longer. But I am not saved; but I will meet and accuse you before the bar of God." And so the man died.

JOSEPH COOK IN JAPAN.

A writer in the *Congregationalist*, alluding to the address of Joseph Cook at Kioto, Japan, which, with its interpretation, occupied three hours and three quarters, says:—"Coming out of that meeting with the recollection that that great audience of legislators, a vice-governor, and many lower officials, physicians, lawyers, editors, teachers, pupils, priests, merchants, &c., have been sitting in perfect quietness and attention for four hours, listening to a Christian preacher, a foreigner too at that, declaring here in this old, sacred city of Kioto that Christianity alone can give them the civilization they seek, the safe constitutional freedom to which they aspire, and then recalling the fact that within ten years a Protestant Christian, imprisoned for his faith alone, died in the prison of this same city, one could hardly help exclaiming, 'What hath God wrought!'"

The new year's plans and purposes may bring to mind failure in carrying out the old year's plans and purposes, to discourage us from renewed effort; but we shall all the more need to "try, try again."

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