

schools are multiplying within the walls of the Eternal City; that Rome itself is open to the circulation of the Bible and the preaching of the Cross; that under the shadows of St. Peters and the Vatican Protestants may not only worship unmolested, but carry on the work of evangelism; that the Bible carts roll out of Madrid, and in the very Spain whose name is the historic synonym of the Inquisition the people should so clamor for the Word of God that copies cannot be printed fast enough to meet the demand; that in France, that right arm of the Papal power for centuries, land of the exiled Huguenots and of awful St. Bartholomew, both French Chambers order elimination of priests and nuns from government schools within five years; and the greatest work of popular evangelization ever known should now be in progress, and the government aid and encourage the McAll stations as the best possible *police* to restrain and reform that mercurial people, whose very blood, like the Irishman's, is quicksilver.

Savonarola's dying cry was, "O Italy, I warn thee that only Christ can save thee! The time for the Holy Ghost has not come, but it will!" What if that martyr of Ferrara could have seen Italy's history from 1848 until now! Where in 1866 a Protestant preacher was expelled for preaching, twenty years later Leo XIII. says to his cardinals, "With deep regret and profound anguish we behold the impiety with which Protestants freely and with impunity propagate their heretical doctrines, and attack the most august and sacred doctrines of our holy religion—even here at Rome, the center of the faith and the zeal of the universal and infallible teacher of the church!"

What we may now see or have seen in Italy and Spain and France, is but a type of what to a greater or less extent is true of all lands held under the nominal control of the Papacy.

The "twelve hundred and sixty" days of dominion seem to have expired. No man can foresee the changes that within ten years may yet take place. There are many indications that there is to be a *Reformed Catholic Church*, on a great scale, in which those who within the Papal communion hold to evangelical truth shall find a refuge from companionship and complicity with error and heresy and iniquity. Rev. W. T. Bainbridge, whose "World Tour" did so much for missions, met in Asia many Catholic priests who seemed to have been influenced by the accompanying evangelical missions; and there are many signs in the British Provinces and in our own Republic that Roman Catholicism, in close contact with Protestantism and remote from the Papal centers, is being essentially modified by such contact. The future may show us a great exodus from Rome, of those who "come out of her that they be not partakers of her sins nor receive of her plagues." Nay, even a reconstructed church, that casts off the ceremonies of the sepulcher and comes forth in a new life of purified faith!

SUGGESTIVE PARAGRAPHS.

God's Hand in Our History.—In 1588 Great Britain did not possess a foot of land on this continent. France and Spain possessed all. In 1688 Spain owned vast tracts of North and South America, and was in effect still supreme. France claimed much, and her possession seemed secure. France, Spain and Portugal carried out the behests of the Pope wherever they hoisted their flag. There was no toleration of Protestantism. It was about two hundred years ago that France claimed the St. Lawrence and the whole territory which it drains, and also the Mississippi valley down to the Gulf of Mexico, and westward to Texas. In 1788 France and Spain still held much territory, though their grasp upon the continent was much