

tion itself was not so palpable a home-thrust to the Papacy as this war has proved. Four weeks ago Presbyterian ministers were not allowed to worship God in their own hired houses in the Pope's city. If there was to be Protestant worship it had to be conducted outside the walls of Rome. The Inquisition was rampant in all its traditional secrecy and atrocity. It is not many months indeed since English ladies were suddenly expelled from Rome because they were readers of the Bible. No other spot on earth was so vigilantly guarded against every breath of religious liberty, and every syllable of evangelical truth. The priest's rule was there in the full blossoming of its perfection, to show the world what sort of rule it must be! Mercenary soldiers were gathered from far and near to defend the Pope from his own subjects. The lowest criminals were transformed into an army of policemen to do the Papal bidding. Life, property and liberty were all alike insecure—were at the mercy of a most pitiless tyranny. Yet, this is the Model Government which Popery would extend to the whole world! This is the power which has collapsed in consequence of the present war.

Thanks be to God that this hoary and cruel despotism is now overthrown—fallen, swept away from among living realities—that it has become a hissing and a byword throughout the world. The dungeons of the Inquisition are once more flung open to the light of day. Mourning captives are released. Men and tender women and little children often pined and perished in those dungeons by command of one calling himself the Vicar of Jesus Christ. In 1848 when these dungeons were opened, there were found in them ghastly relics of numerous victims—the scalps of women and the limbs of children that had perished in darkness. We have not yet heard if similar sights have greeted the eyes of the Italian liberators on the present occasion. How delightful the thought that the great city of Rome is now at length free to the Bible, free to the Evangelist, free to the humble worshipper of Jesus Christ!

The Pope's temporal power perished

amid the loud acclamations of the people of Rome. They thronged the streets in their holiday attire; they shed tears of joy; they embraced the feet of the horses on which the rough northern soldiers rode; their houses were illuminated night after night as in honour of a great national triumph. Thus fell the "infallible" Pope of Rome! Thus has he fallen amid curses, and laughter of fierce derision, and tears of inexpressible joy. The judgment of God has descended with tremendous weight upon Antichrist. His fanatical followers in all lands mourn in anguish over the blow that has been struck—struck, too, by Roman Catholic Italy,—struck just three short months after the Infallibility was decreed!

Thus we see that war is a messenger in the hands of God, doing His bidding, overthrowing, overturning, destroying, so long as God gives commission to that effect. It has its lessons to teach in Germany, North and South,—where the people have been awakened to unwonted earnestness with regard to the salvation of their souls. The places of public worship are crowded as they have not been since the days of the Reformation. Protests against the decisions of the late Ecumenical Council are being numerously signed in the Roman Catholic sections of Germany by leaders of thought and action. There is at least a probability of an extensive Reform movement among the Roman Catholic German States—especially is such a movement imminent in Bavaria. The Bible is being sought after and read with unprecedented avidity.

France has had a terrible awakening from her debauched dream of material well-being and vain-glory. Never was a proud nation more suddenly humiliated to the dust.—Before the war she was notoriously a gay, cynical, corrupt, unbelieving nation. Her people were so given to lying that they believed in nothing except the lying Gospel according to Renan, the lying pretensions of Ultramontanism, the lying sciences of Taine and Compté, the mock-Cesarism of Napoleon, and the fanatic socialism of Red Republicanism. The change already wrought