

THE  
THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Evangelical Society of La Grande Vigne.

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In presenting to this Board, and to our Christian friends generally, the 38th Annual Report of this Society, there is in connection with our work a thought most prominent in our mind, which is this: We live in a year of religious revivals, a year of the Lord, when His almighty Spirit is gathering thousands of souls into the fold of Christ. But from what sphere of the human family are they gathered? They are gathered from that sphere where Christianity prevails, and still more accurately from that portion of Christendom where the Bible is most intimately known,—we mean Protestant states, churches and communities. While this is taking place on a large scale, there is only the superstitious semblance of religious revivals in that corrupted Christianity which is called Roman Catholicism, such as organized pilgrimages to supposed miraculous springs and to spots of supernatural revelations, especially of the Virgin Mary, who has now become the *factotum* of the Papal Church; but we do not hear of revivals that change the heart and the moral life of communities,—such a thing is not known there.

We know that hundreds of missionaries are at work in heathen lands, that their labors are blessed to the salvation of many souls; still the number of those who are brought to a saving knowledge of Jesus is as yet but the drops before the shower. The mass remain as it were untouched, though we know it is permeated by Christian ideas and the principles of Christian civilization. Great revivals of religion take place, chiefly in the midst of evangelical communities, and only draw a few from the outside world. There is just here in the teachings of history and experience a lesson for us to