

into their hands, but have not succeeded. Encouraging success is still met with in connection with the labours of the Assembly's missionaries to the Romanists.

France has had rather a sad tercentenary, that of the Bartholomew massacre. Father Hyacinthe, spite of his matrimonial alliance, has been joined by the Abbé Michaud and other men of comparatively evangelical views. The priests who adhere to Rome, on the other hand, have busied themselves and occupied the minds of the faithful with pilgrimages to all sorts of shrines and the revival of miraculous agencies. The year has been a famous one for Protestantism. The first Synod of the National French Church held since 1660, sat on the 6th of June, and declared itself largely evangelical. The name of the Count de Gasparin, who in 1849 established with Frederic Monod the union of Evangelical Churches or Free Church of France, appears among the obituaries of the year.

Since the conclusion of the war with France, the German Empire has been disturbed by the violence of the Ultramontane party, at the head of whom stood the Jesuits. They obstructed the way of the Government in all its attempts to form and carry out a general system of education. The High Lutherans made common cause with them for the purpose of obtaining separate schools. At length Bismarck would endure it no longer, and published an edict banishing the Jesuits. The meeting of the Kirchentag, or Congress of Churches, at Halle, was the occasion of the well-known statesman, Herr van Bethmann Hollweg, calling for a union of all the German Churches, and advocating for the United Church a Presbyterian form of government. The High Church Lutherans are the obstacle at present. At the same time the Old Catholic Congress was held at Cologne. It was marked by the careful way in which the canon lawyers of the Church sought to establish legal ground of action, with a view to state recognition and the consequent overthrow of the Ultramontanists. The Old Catholics have gained great strength in many parts of Austria, a land once devoted to the Pope.

In Switzerland a great man has fallen in Dr. Merle D'Aubigné, the celebrated Church historian. His death, deplored throughout the bounds of the Protestant Church, occurred shortly after the meeting of the Evangelical Conference at Geneva, by which the hearts of God's people have been cheered amid many rationalistic and anti-Christian influences. Another death meets us in connection with Italy. Dr. Lewis of Rome finished his course with joy, living long enough to see his labours crowned with much success. A remarkable conference took place in the Eternal City, between three protestant pastors and three Romish priests, resulting in the defeat of the latter. A branch of the Bible Society has been established in Rome, and a bonfire of religious books, most of which were copies of the Scriptures, has been lit by priestly hands in an Italian village. The old Catholics are