

Evangelical utterances ; and a host of Roman Catholic lecturers and journalists, priests and laymen—foremost among whom are l'abbé Garnier and Count de Nun—have gone to work among the masses with the aim of forming a Socialist-Catholic party. Thus we may foresee the most stupendous combination that could ever have been dreamed, and which, if really consummated, will be full of danger to the future of the world—the marriage of red democracy with papacy, the beast whose deadly wounds have been healed, at least in appearance, and which seems as strong as it ever has been.

As I am writing these lines, our daily papers are publishing an encyclical letter of the Pope—his swan's song, as some say—which exhibits that wonderful craftiness of which I have just spoken. It is an appeal for reunion, specially directed to the Greek and Anglican churches. "Speaking to those nations which have for the last three centuries been separated from the Church, the Pope shows that there is no certain rule of faith and authority left to them. A large number among them have overthrown the very foundations of Christianity by *denying the divinity of Christ and the inspiration of the Scriptures.*"

Is it not the wonder of wonders that the man who incarnates that awful system by which the Bible has been burned, and its disciples, even to this day, persecuted to death ; that system which has established tradition above *the Bible*, has contradicted every Bible doctrine and tried to silence every Bible preacher, should now dare to stand before the world as the advocate of the Bible against—the Protestants ! And yet, it is, alas ! but too true that Protestantism to a large extent is no more the religion of the Bible. This accounts for the boldness of Rome, and for her success.*

We, the French Evangelical Christians, can never be deceived by this pretended "angel of light." We know that Rome is the responsible instigator of those very evils against which our deluded people are trying to find a remedy in her. We know that immorality, infidelity, lawlessness are the offspring of Roman Catholicism. Idolatry and atheism are not so far apart as it seems, and the same people may pass with astonishing swiftness from the one to the other.

I shall give, on this point, the testimony of a priest.

A little time ago I visited the great shrine of the Virgin at Lourdes, a little town in the Pyrenees, where the "Mother of God" is said to have

* While, in his encyclical letters, the Pope extols the Bible, he has forbidden the circulation of a translation of the Gospels made by a staunch Roman Catholic, Henri Lacorre, and approved by a number of bishops. At first the circulation was permitted, and more than 100,000 copies were sold (the Gospels alone) at the high price of four francs per copy (eighty cents). The Church took alarm at this evident thirst for the Word on the part of the people, and a papal order was issued forbidding the book. Henri Lacorre at once submitted, and is now in Rome trying to reverse the papal will, but without success.

As a matter of fact, there is not, in papal countries, a Bible or a New Testament to be bought in bookellers' shops, or from colporteurs, except the Protestant versions. And yet in England and in America, where it would be impossible to take the Bible away from the people, Rome tries to pass herself off as the defender of the Bible !