

Now in this last eruption of Vesuvius we seem to see something very like that, in the present state of Italy, which shall ere long fix the anxious gaze of the rest of Europe. For years, ever since the revolutions of 1848, an unwonted stillness has reigned over Italy. But underneath that sullen silence there have been seething and working elements of a blasting destruction to her present delusive kind of peace. How soon the report may be heard of the bursting forth of a new political eruption no man can tell. But this we know, that *Popery is doomed*. An utter destruction shall ere long burst upon Rome as the head of the Anti-Christian apostacy. Any power the Pope may seem to have—any quietness the Jesuits may enjoy to push their secret schemes in the merchandise of the souls of men—are but the delusive calm preceding their awful overthrow.

That fair city of Naples is known to stand upon a mere crust, with an abyss of volcanic fires beneath it. Any moment these fires might burst forth—or, the crust giving way, the city might be swallowed up in utter destruction. The same thing is said to be true of Rome itself. But, whether or not such be indeed the kind of judgements reserved by God for that overthrow in which the Romish Babylon is to be destroyed, the certainty of its destruction is clear and positive. The state of Italy is surely therefore a matter of deepest interest and of the most prayerful anxiety to every true Christian. How watchful ought the Church to be to take advantage of every possible opening for saving souls perishing in Popish error in a land where the plagues which are coming upon the Romish Babylon are likely to be felt with so terrible severity!—*Ibid.*

EXERCISES FOR THE SABBATH SCHOOL.

We are of opinion that an excellent exercise for a Sabbath School Class, or for children in the Home School, is to require the young people to prove some doctrine or duty from Scripture—to find examples or the like. It has been suggested to us that, if a portion of the *Juvenile Presbyterian* were each month occupied with aiding in carrying out this system, it would be profitable and popular. In proposing to a class to prove some truth or illustrate it by examples, the teacher should always give one or more passages to his or her class, as a beginning, asking the class to find and bring more. Many of these Scripture proofs may be committed to memory, if practicable. But, even without this, the benefit to the Sabbath Scholar, and frequently to the family whence the scholar comes, of seeking and selecting