

faith of Christ, and who seek to make known to all men the story of the Cross. We see liberty of church government conceded at last to the Protestants of France. We see Rome the centre of important movements towards Italian evangelization, while "Giant Pope" gnashes his teeth in impotent rage, describing himself as a prisoner because forsooth he is no longer at liberty to exterminate his foes. What can be more wonderful than this revolution in Italy! It seems but as yesterday when the Madii were condemned to penal servitude for reading the Scriptures—when the boy Mortara was stolen from his parents—when the trunks of English ladies were habitually ransacked and their Bibles confiscated: and now from the Alps to the Adriatic there is the amplest liberty to conduct evangelistic labours on the widest scale practicable.

Austria is another country in which within a few years a great and salutary revolution has taken place. There is no "Concordat" now binding that that vast and unwieldy Empire to the chariot wheels of the Papacy. Protestants are not merely tolerated; they are politically on an equality with their neighbours.

Our readers have probably heard of the persecutions to which Lutherans have been subjected in Russia. We are glad to say that the public voice of the civilized Protestant world has had some effect on the policy of the Czar. The Council of the British Protestant Alliance state that:

"The Council have learned that already the oppressive measures of which Protestants complained, have been stopped; orders have been given that Lutherans, who, from whatever cause, had become members of the Greek Church shall now be allowed to return to the Church to which they had formerly belonged; and Lutheran Consistories, previously constrained by the Russian authorities to exercise discipline upon Protestant pastors who administered the Lord's Supper to returned converts, or who baptized the children of mixed marriages, have announced their intention not to carry out in future, such orders. This courageous declaration has been allowed by the Russian Government to pass without notice or reply."

Turkey is comparatively free and safe now for missionary operations,—especially

within sight of the British flag. The reactionary movement in China appears to have given place to a spirit of greater friendliness towards Protestant missionaries. Japan is still in a most unsatisfactory condition as regards religious liberty. It is now known on undoubted authority that, as the *New York Observer* says, more than four thousand human beings are this moment in rigorous and cruel bondage in Japan, because they profess the Christian religion. Nearly all of them are Roman Catholics. Only about twenty persons in Japan have professed conversion under the Protestant missionaries, who have but recently begun their labours. The Romanists have been there and in China, for many long years. The Japanese Government makes no distinction between Romanists and Protestants, but condemns all alike to imprisonment or death.

This disastrous state of things has arisen through Jesuit intrigues to get possession of the country two centuries ago. The Japanese discovered their bad character and ruthlessly destroyed or ruined all Christians, native and foreign. Mr. Thompson, a Presbyterian missionary, who is now in New York, has given a very heart-rending account of the treatment to which the remnant of native Christians are subjected. His account agrees fully with what we have read elsewhere. It is hoped that the Embassy from Japan now visiting the United States, will exercise an influence for good on the policy of their Government when they return to their homes. In this connection it is well worthy of record, that when a young American, a son of Rev. Dr. Clark, of Albany, went to Japan a few months ago in the service of the Japanese Government, he was urged and commanded to sign a pledge that he would not teach Christianity. Unless he would promise not to teach his religion he would lose his appointment. Great pressure was brought upon him for some time, but he manfully refused and at last the Government of Japan gave way and left the young man his full liberty. This is a step the importance of which is great as an indication of a more liberal policy.