

A colporteur in ———, transmits the following extract of a letter he had received from a Roman Catholic priest:—

“Dear friend,” writes the cure, “I thank you very affectionately for the kind sentiments which you express; the fresh knowledge which I have recently acquired of men and of worldly things will draw me nearer to God and to evangelical life, and I shall profit by my exile and my isolated position to nourish myself more assiduously than ever with the word of God, and to imbibe more of the mind of our Divine Master.”

“The priest in question has written me this letter under the influence of very great sorrow. He has just been removed from a parish to which he was attached and where he was beloved, and to which he was endeavoring to do the greatest possible good; and where, moreover, he spread and preached the Gospel. By order of the Archbishop he has been transferred to one of the smallest parishes in the — —, by way of punishment for having attempted to instruct his parishioners in the truths of the Gospel! To this then we have come in France in the middle of the 19th century! A priest who would keep his place and his bread is obliged to hold back from his people that truth which saves and sanctifies; which vivifies and regenerates communities as well as individuals. Poor France! may the Lord our God have compassion on thee!”

In the same letter he writes of another locality:—

“The inhabitants of this commune, more than 300 in number, belonging to the French Catholic Church, having become more enlightened, have embraced Protestantism. Faithful pastors have been given them, and from that time this people, famous for their litigious spirit and loose morals, have been changed; there has been no more talk of law-suits, no more evil doings towards the inhabitants of the neighboring communes. Family duties are now practised, and what is more precious, Christian living is now manifested by several individuals. Several most edifying deaths have taken place. These are transformations which the Bible read and believed in could alone produce.

“But the Romish clergy, far from rejoicing in this change, have become more and more angry as they have understood that they have been for ever dispossessed of this locality. What distressed them most was, to see the church transformed into a Protestant place of worship, and their old and flourishing school under the care of Protestant teachers. Although the clergy have not retained more than half a dozen adherents at V——, they have had a new and very pretty church built, and have there placed a priest, and they have left no stone unturned to bring back again the old Catholics. Nobody went, however, and they tried the same game with the school, which they endeavored to establish by the side of the Protestant one, but not a pupil came.

“There is yet one more fact, which I must communicate to you. One of our Colporteurs, who labors in the south, was brought a few months ago into contact with one of the judges of a certain town, which it is better, perhaps, not to name; this judge was a Roman Catholic, but had become disgusted with the errors he had seen in Popery. The piety of our friend touched him; he bought a Bible, he read it conscientiously; very often he sent for the colporteur that he might explain to him what appeared obscure; often they knelt down in prayer. What must always take place under such circumstances, took place now. This judge is become a true and warm disciple of the Bible. For the last month he has gone into retirement, that he may