

clergy and laity, who desire to *reform*, not to *destroy*, the ancient historical Church of Italy.

"Many are convinced of the evils resulting from the exaggerated pretensions of the Bishop of Rome, from the general disuse of Bible reading, from liturgical worship in a dead tongue, from enforced celibacy and similar distinctive Roman practices, especially from the increase of Mariolatry, by which the mediatorial character of our Blessed Lord is so seriously obscured.

"The two Bishops have had the satisfaction of holding several conferences with Italians thus disposed to Church Reformation.

"They have no doubt whatever that a desire exists for a liturgical worship, in the vernacular tongue, free from the superstitions gradually introduced by the Church of Rome.

"This desire, the Bishops conceive, is a necessary and legitimate result of the information which has been conveyed and the convictions it has produced; they believe that the effect of discouraging it would be in every way disastrous.

"When consulted by Italians, they have disclaimed all notion of reproducing in Italy a copy of the Anglican Liturgy (as used either in England or America); but they are satisfied, from much evidence that has reached them, that those Italians, whether priests or laymen, who are cast out of their original communion, too often find no opportunity of satisfying their religious needs in accordance with Church principles and Church order, and thus have no resource but to unite themselves to one or other of the non-Episcopal bodies; or they lapse into a condition in which, practically, they have no opportunities of worship, and thus run grievous risk of drifting into infidelity.

"The two Bishops believe that priests who may be no longer able to submit to the unscriptural and uncatholic terms of communion which the Church of Rome imposes are nevertheless bound, under these circumstances, to supply the means of grace to their countrymen situated like themselves. This duty, the Bishops conceive, flows from the original commission of such priests to minister God's word and sacraments.

"Before parting, on the termination of a journey which, in the orderings of God's Providence, has so unexpectedly enabled them jointly to make these enquiries and observations, the two Bishops are anxious jointly to commend to the various members of their respective branches of the Church the duty of assisting the following objects:—

"(1) The dissemination of the Holy Scriptures and such information as may tend to promote a sound and sober Reformation of the Italian Church on primitive Catholic bases

"(2) Toward the support of such priests, of undoubted moral and religious character, as may, for conscience' sake, suffer loss of their ecclesiastical preferment, and consequently fall into distress.

"(3) Toward the maintenance of religious services conducted by such priests as a temporary and provisional measure, during the transitional stage which must elapse before the Reformation movement can be expected to become national.

"They hold that an indispensable condition of rendering assistance to this last object should be careful investigation on the spot to ascertain that such religious services spring from a genuine and spontaneous desire on the part of the Italian clergy and laity, and that the sincerity of this desire should be attested by earnest native efforts to meet the needful expenses."

Milan, May, 1866.