

SPAIN.—AN INCIDENT IN GALICIA.

BY REV. THOMAS L. GULICK.

In Santiago, I gave two or three tracts to the boys who had carried my baggage to the railroad station. Soon there was a crowd around me begging for tracts. I got into the car to escape the crowd, which began to collect about the doors and windows. In five minutes I sold some twenty gospels. When the train was in motion I sold a number of gospels to those who were in the same car with me.

To one of my neighbours, a young priest, I handed the Epistle to the Romans. He began to read, but stopped with a sudden surprise: "What does this mean? He says, 'I am debtor both to the Greeks and the barbarians.' How could Christ be debtor to anybody?" "You certainly know," I replied, "that the Epistle to the Romans was written by Paul and not by Christ." He still looked surprised, but assented and continued his reading, and becoming much interested bought a New Testament and several other books.

While reading a tract, *El Libro Maravillosa*, he finally said, "This book seems to favour the right of private interpretation." "When my father writes me a letter," I replied, "I always claim the right of reading it myself, and of understanding it according to the plain sense of the words. I claim the same right when my Heavenly Father writes me a letter to show me the way of salvation." It then dawned on his mind that I and my books were Protestant. He was much shocked, and said that our Bible was not really the Bible, that it was greatly corrupted; that their bishop had lately bought up a great number of them and burned them.

I asked, "Do you read Greek?" "A little." "Have you read the New Testament in Greek?" "No." "Well, I have, and have compared it with the Spanish Testament which you hold; and though the translation is not absolutely perfect, as no human work can be, I assure you, from my personal knowledge, that it is not intentionally corrupted in a single word or syllable. You, perhaps, are not to blame for saying that it is; but those who have taught you so *know*, or *ought* to know, that they speak falsely. If they have been burning Bibles, it is not because the Bibles are corrupted, but because they do not wish the people to search the Scriptures and know exactly what the word of God says. You are a religious teacher, and yet I doubt whether you can tell me what are the ten commandments."

He was much pleased by the challenge, and began to repeat very fluently the version in the Roman catechism, leaving out the second, and changing the fourth to, "Keep the feast days." "Stop there," I said; "you have omitted the second and changed the fourth." "No," he said, "I have repeated them correctly, word for word." "You have left out the second." "No, I haven't." "You are mistaken, and I doubt whether you know what the second commandment is." Finally he asked, "What is it, then?" I told him. "And now," I said, "I don't believe you can repeat correctly the fourth, which you call the third." He could only say, "It is, 'Keep the feast days.'" Again he was compelled to ask me what the commandment really was.

"Now," said I, "you have been ignorantly accusing us of corrupting the Bible. The charge is false; but I have just proved that your teachers have wilfully so mutilated and corrupted the word of God that you, a teacher of that law, do not even know the ten commandments. You are not so much to blame, because you believed what was taught you; but the case is very different with your superiors. God has spoken terrible denunciations against those who *take from, or add to, His Word*. Let me advise you henceforth to search the Scriptures. Take them as the rule of your life, and the gospel which you preach." He turned pale and was much agitated. "But," said he, "if I should do so I would lose my living, and everybody would be