

pects, and so necessary, already recommends itself by its fruits to those who know how *slowly the work of the Lord proceeds* in our days in the midst of populations depraved by Popery.

We acknowledge, with all those who are doing Evangelical work by our side, that *we have not yet seen precisely an epoch of reformation or of great religious awakening*. But we can bless God for a number of individual conversions. Is not the work for the Lord, and in respect to heaven rather than to earth? Is it not, first of all, important to call souls to salvation and to eternal life? In this respect we have not laboured, and none shall ever labour in vain.

Congregations are, moreover, inevitably formed by this call to salvation. We attach a certain importance to a regular ministry in the bosom of their congregations; not that the word is not equally good and efficacious on the lips of one who has not received imposition of hands, but because we need to be as certain as possible that preaching, by reason of its great importance as a public call and as testimony, is conformable to truth. Therefore, we do not employ ministers only, but also other evangelists, provided they have made before the pastors of the Church an explicit, intelligent confession of faith, conformable to the doctrines contained in Holy Scripture. No doubt, a lifeless orthodoxy is of no use; but this dead, or cold, or legal orthodoxy will soon betray its impotency, and it would be remedied by withdrawing a useless labourer, while a preaching which is not pure would cast seeds into the Lord's field which it would not be possible again to extirpate, and which would prepare for the future a deceitful harvest.

We are of opinion that *even if we should not obtain great success in preaching the Gospel beyond our own congregations (évangélisation extérieure) we shall not have discharged this debt in vain, and that especially the preparation of our future ministers in the city of Florence, where the language has strange charms, will not be useless for our populations.*"

Moreover, the Vaudois Commission, while working for the establishment of its Church in Italy, declares that it leaves the field open to all other Protestant Churches. Now we know what mistakes exist among the different Protestant Churches on points of the greatest importance; what latitude they are obliged to leave to each Missionary in particular. We believe, then, that there will only result profound disorder from this preaching of contrary opinions, and consequently a great weakening of Christian feeling."

PRESENT ASPECT OF MISSIONARY LABOURS.

We shall advert to one more feature of encouragement at the present moment which should put heart into the friends of the Missionary cause, and arouse them to increasing earnestness—the importance of the results attained by that work of evangelization during the last fifty years, and the healthful aspect of our churches and congregations throughout the world. The elevation of land from the ocean's depths, until, sur-