

building of his ark as man would have set about it. In the eyes of the world, those who would work for Christ, and who would be used by God for the accomplishment of his purposes, must be content to be the laughing-stocks of their day. They must be willing to be fools for Christ's sake. All through the Bible did not they who were used as God's instruments seem absurd and foolish in the eyes of the world? There were the taking of Jericho through the blowing of the rams' horns, the prodigies wrought by Samson with the jawbone of an ass, the feeding of Elijah by the ravens—these were all contemptible in the eyes of men, but nevertheless they were God's ways of bringing about the fulfilment of his designs. In more modern times there was John Bunyan, the despised tinker, in whom the devil found his match, who was chosen by God to write the immortal "Pilgrim's Progress." Similar God could use the weak things of London to do his work. It was not good preachers that were wanted, for probably at no time had London possessed so many great preachers as now. The belief of every individual Christian should be, not that 'God *can* use me,' but 'He *will* use me.' What was wanted was that they should be out-and-out on the Lord's side, with heart and brain on fire for the Lord, and ready to use every power and every member for his service. He often wondered why God did not take his work on earth away from men and give it to the angels, who would be glad to do it. But God was the same God, and as ready and willing to give the power from on high now, as in the days of Elisha and St. Paul. He was always more willing to bless than we to receive the blessing, and he exhorted his hearers to keep close to Christ, to be faithful, and preach Him in season and out of season, for what London and the whole world wanted was more of Christ and Him crucified."

ITALY.

The progress of the gospel movement is very considerable. Did your pages allow of it, I could cite dozens of detailed instances of Church extension, consolidation, and enlargement, any one of which ten years ago would have sufficed as the substance of an interesting communication. In connection with all the various efforts of individuals and churches, I hear of striking conversions through the reading of tracts and the perusal of Bibles up and down the country, which have been curiously obtained. All the churches, more or less, report the addition of seven to ten members, and as many catechumens under instruction, and the upspringing of neighboring village stations. Schools and excellently edited Evangelical journals are everywhere established. Unions of our Christian youth, on an undenominational basis have sprung up in all the larger towns, and are in correspondence with one another. Better halls are secured, and many old places of Roman Catholic worship have been purchased. Regular and larger contributions are rendered as the fruit of a growing and more intelligent piety, and a more thorough organization. A greater number of priests have become obedient to the faith, and the whole evangelical work has assumed visibility and standing, and gained the respect of the powers that be.

I cannot but testify my satisfaction with the prodigious advance made during the last few years, so that cases of persecution become daily rarer, and many other hindrances are gradually lessening. The friends of Italian evangelization have every reason to be gratified, and to expect yet greater results in the near future.

As a matter of duty I ought also to say that among the native Christians of Italy connected with the various denominations, an excellent spirit reigns.