

# The Canadian Presbyterian Magazine :

Epecially devoted to the interests of the United Presbyterian Church.

"SPEAK UNTO THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, THAT THEY GO FORWARD"—Exodus xiv. 15.

VOL. I.—No. 7.]

TORONTO, JANUARY, 1852.

{PRICE: 21 PER ANNUM. Paid in advance.

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Madiati had come in, when he was immediately arrested, as were also three other persons, who were found sitting together in one of the rooms, though they were not reading the Bible, nor were they there for that purpose. They were all carried off to prison. One of these persons was an Englishman, Captain Arthur de Not Walker. At the representation of the British legation he was afterwards released, but not until he had been kept in prison twenty-two hours. The other two were detained in prison seven days, and then, without trial or judicial proceedings of any kind, or even so much as the allegation of a crime, were offered their choice of indefinite imprisonment, or indefinite banishment. They chose the latter, and are some, one to Geneva and one to Turin. Twelve days after the arrest of her husband, Madame Madiati was taken into custody. Private examinations have taken place, at which they have answered themselves to be Protestants. In addition to the charge implied in the avowal, the infamous charge has been brought against them of keeping a house for immoral purposes. They are still in prison, in separate cells, and are allowed to have no communication with each other.—Under date of October 10th, the informant says, Madame Madiati cannot be visited by any one, but she writes as if her long imprisonment and solitary confinement had much impaired her health, and fears are entertained that she will sink under the rigours to which she is subjected. Even her medical attendance has been refused admittance.

To the foregoing facts, two others are to be added. Some years ago, when the church of St. Florentia was repaired, Count Guicciardini and some other persons had caused some passages from the Bible to be inscribed upon the walls. They were in the Italian language, and from a faithful translation. The priests have had them obliterated, as it was found that persons passing by stopped to read them. They have, however, been clandestinely re-published with a suitable preface.

The other fact is, that the Government have offered a reward of £6 sterling, to any person who will give information to the police of any one possessing a copy of the printed narrative of Count Guicciardini's exile.

In these persecutions it is stated the Jesuits are especially active.—Many preachers are sent out, and principally of this order, to persuade the people that what is sold for the Bible is not that book in reality, but a peculiar Bible which the Protestants have of their own. Special instructions are sent from Rome to the confessors teaching them how to deal with those who confess having read the Scriptures, or having heard them read by others.

It may be inferred from the vigilance which is thus used to discover copies of the Bible, and the tyrannical methods employed to prevent its being read, that a desire to obtain it, extensively prevails. And this is the fact. Great numbers are thirsting after the water of life, as the following statements will show.

After the decree before referred to was published, people could no longer meet, without the greatest caution, to read the Scriptures. But they still continued to collect together in smaller companies, and in the bye-streets and most secluded parts of the city, changing the locality every time, and they went out into the fields, and along the banks of the river.

Urgent applications for the Bible are made from the Provinces, far more than can be supplied, so much so that one thousand copies might be disposed of in the course of ten days. Strict search is made at the Custom-house, and very few are got through. In this scarcity of the Word of God a few persons have copied in MS. the greater part of the New Testament, from one which had been lent them to read.

It is a fact already known, that the Italian service in the Swiss Protestant Church, was suppressed because it was so much frequented. There were between 600 and 700 Italians present, the last time. And none, it is said, but those who are actually labouring, have a complete idea of the plentiful harvest to be gathered in that land, could public preaching be exercised. It is not too much to say, that two-thirds of the whole population would leave the Romish system.

In conclusion, the informant says, "Respecting our need of temporal means for carrying on the work, and provide for so many children and families, without fathers to provide for them, they being in prison or banished, I merely wish thus to allude to it, and to say that the Lord has always made his promises good to us up to this time, and having given us his Son he will withhold no good thing from us."

## Religious Intelligence.

### ITALY—PERSECUTIONS AT FLORENCE

In this paper it is intended to give a succinct account, derived from private sources, of the war which is at the present time waged in Florence, against the Word of God, and of the persecutions suffered by those who read it, or are suspected of doing so. Some statements also will be made with the design of showing how ardently, and to what an extent the Roman Catholic population of that city are thirsting after it.

On the 25th of April of the present year, Government issued a decree, by which any magistrate is authorised to imprison any person who is known to possess or read the Bible, and, still further, he may commit to prison any person who is suspected to be averse to the Romish religion, or whose tendencies are suspected to be towards receiving the truths of the Bible.

Under this decree Count Guicciardini and seven other persons with him were arrested, on the 7th of May, being surprised by the police while they were reading together the Word of God. The Scripture they were reading was the fifteenth chapter of John. They were several times privately examined in prison, when they boldly and steadfastly confessed Christ, and on the 17th of the same month they were exiled.

On the 10th June, a poor man, or farmer, the informant does not know which, was sentenced to a year's imprisonment and hard labour, for breaking his images of the Virgin and other saints. A Bible was found in his house, which, he stated, had led him to do what he had done. And on the 3th of September, eight or ten men of the Pontic A Ripedi, were committed to prison on suspicion of reading the Scriptures—a suspicion which was, indeed, well founded.

The confessional is used for the purpose of intimidating persons, and inducing them to betray their relatives. A father in this way informed against two of his sons. He was told he should get no absolution until he had denounced them to the police. This he did, and they were both arrested and cast into prison. In another instance a wife betrayed her husband under the solicitations and threatenings of the Confessor. His house was three times searched, but he succeeded in concealing his Bible, once in a basket of chips and nothing else was found to convict him.—He was seized, notwithstanding, in the month of August last, and is still in prison. His name is Pasquale Casacci, and he is well known and respected in Florence, having been for twenty-seven years a servant of the Post Office.

On the 17th August, between seven and eight in the evening, the police visited the lodging-house of Francesco Mudiati. At the moment he was not at home; an active search was made, nevertheless, through all the rooms, even into the attics and the cellars. Two Bibles were found, and an English religious book, which were seized. In the meantime M.