

would have defiled them! The pastor ran the risk of dying of cold and hunger; and those who went to hear him hazarded their own lives, so greatly had the popular fanaticism been wrought upon. Such is the mode in which the priests explain and practice *toleration*. They seek to make proselytes among the Protestants, but they do not permit Protestants to act in the same manner among their followers."

We copy another extract from the same letter, revealing some new abominations:—

"I have already spoken to you, in my preceding letters, of the mysterious occurrences which have taken place in a nunnery at Lyons, and of the wounds inflicted upon some young girls by a pretended devil, who appeared to them in their sleeping apartments. Other facts, of a similar character, have been recently brought to light at *St. Etienne*, where the priests have established, under the direction of nuns, institutions which they call *Houses of Providence* or *Houses of Refuge*,—sort of convents, where young girls are placed in confinement, in order to be subjected to a severe discipline.

The idea which led to the foundation of these institutions was a good one; but the tyrannical spirit of Popery corrupts all that it touches; it gives even to benevolence a character of barbarity and cruelty. Far from treating the persons who are confined to them with the respect due to their age and sex, the nuns of *St. Etienne* inflict upon them *tortures*, in the full acceptance of the term, so that these *Houses of Refuge* have become real prisons.

In the first place, their pupils are not allowed to receive any visits from their parents, except from behind a thick iron grating, and in the presence of two or three of the mistresses. Thus, the delightful outbursts of family affection, the holy intercourse of domestic life, are inhumanly suppressed, there exists in this place a jealous inquisition, which suspects even the counsels given by a mother! Then, if a young girl manifests too much firmness and decision of character, the directresses make her take *debilitating drinks* and *enervating drugs*, in order to render her more pliant and docile to their commands. Moreover, there are in these nunneries unhealthy, damp, gloomy *dungeons*, where the poor girls are incarcerated, sometimes for several days. And, horrible to relate, they place on them what is called a *corset de force*, such as is used for convicts who refuse to work. When the victim is placed in this *corset*, her hands lie crossed upon her breast and motionless; she is unable to take any food without assistance; she receives a little water and soup, which one of the *sisters* administers to

her as she would to a little child. The prisoners also wear a cap, the strings of which are passed into the mouth, in order to hinder any attempt at resistance; and, if they continue refractory, a great iron chain is placed in the shape of a collar around the neck. Some of these unfortunate creatures have continued in the dungeon for a month. One of them in a fit of despair hung herself. Another, for the space of a week, was quite speechless. Others have become lunatics, or have contracted serious diseases."

The Paris Evangelical Society, we are sorry to learn, is much hindered in its operations by want of funds.

Switzerland.

The London *Times* publishes a letter from a correspondent, in which the writer, after giving an account of the infatuation of the people of Lucerne, who were taught by their priests to expect that the wrath of Heaven would destroy the federal troops when they approached the walls, says:—

"More—I have seen some curious little brass amulets, with the effigy of the virgin on one side and the Cross on the other, which were sold in great numbers to the people as charms against all possible injuries in battle. Those sold at seven and ten batzen (about 10d. and 15d. of our money) were efficacious against musket and carbine balls; those at 20 batzen (about half-a-crown) were proof against cannon shot also! The purchasers of these medals were also presented with a card, of which the following is a *verbatim* transcript, capitals, italics, and all:—

'O MARIE

CONÇUE SANS PÉCHÉ,
PRIEZ POUR NOUS QUI AVONS RECOURS
À VOUS!

Quiconque, portant une médaille miraculeuse, récite avec piété cette invocation, se trouve placé sous la protection spéciale de la Mère de Dieu; c'est une promesse de Marie Elle Même."

Which, being interpreted—if indeed I may be excused for profaning the honest English tongue with such blasphemy—is,

'Oh Mary!—conceived without sin—pray for us who have recourse to you. Any one carrying a miraculous medal, who recites with piety the above invocation, becomes placed under the special protection of the Mother of God. This is a promise made by Mary herself.'

The case of one victim of misplaced confidence (and I doubt not there were many similar) has been related to me on good authority. One of the landsturm was pursued, and challenged to surrender; he refused, took