

Altogether the Synod has been a decidedly hopeful one, and this is saying much in the present distracted state of France. It must not be forgotten that the Church of Rome is the greatest and most compact power in the country; and that, on the other hand, the partisans of the Red Republic are fanatically hostile to all religion. This makes the task of the Free Church, which is a home mission institute, one of peculiar difficulty. May God give her the spirit of power, and of love, and of a sound mind! Principal Cunningham used to say that her chief want was visibility, and so it is to this day. Still, her existence is something to be thankful for, and there can be no doubt that many faithful men in the National Church are encouraged by her example, and at a crisis which may come any day, would gladly associate themselves with her.

A similar report from the Deputy of the Free Church of Scotland, to another little Free Church, that of Belgium, is worthy of consideration. He writes as follows:—

"I got to Brussels on Wednesday afternoon, the 16th August. I was too late for the morning sitting, and I was obliged to leave early on Thursday morning to get to Lucerne for the Sabbath. My presence at the Synod was thus confined to the one public meeting held on Wednesday evening. And when I say that by far the greater part of the time was occupied in the delivery and interpretation of your deputy's address, you will understand why I have almost nothing to report.

"Of the twenty-two pastors and evangelists who lead the work of the little Church, nearly, if not quite, all were present, and I was received among them most cordially. Upwards of a hundred more, consisting of delegates from the several congregations, and of others from the general public, were gathered in the chapel where we met. The President gave out a hymn. After singing, he called on one of the brethren to read a passage of Scripture, and then on another to engage in prayer. The real work and character of the Church are represented by the fact that the President himself, and the two brethren who followed in conducting the devotional exercises, had been converted from Romanism. Then followed the President's opening address, short, simple, and earnest. M. Anet, the Secretary, next read extracts from the Report of the past year, a copy of which may yet be forwarded to the Committee. He then referred to the intense satisfaction which they had had in receiving former deputations from the Free Church of Scotland, and so introduced me warmly to the meeting.

"The first tendency in one's mind was to contrast the small, still assemblage, with our large and demonstrative Assembly. But I felt the tendency at once rebuked when I thought of the manner in which this little body had fought its way thus far, gaining inch by inch from the strongest Romanism which is to be found in the world. It is hard for us to realize the terrible struggle which it has had, and which it still wages year by year. They are few in numbers, and they have little wealth. Yet I believe they are doing real work. And I would venture to say very confidently, even from my short observation, that if we are to help the weak and deserving members of the Protestant family abroad, none has a stronger claim on the Continental Committee than the Christian Missionary Church of Belgium."

The points agreed upon at the Old Catholic Conference held in Munich, last September, are the following.—

1. They reject the Roman innovations, and maintain the old faith of the Tridentine Council.