

Providence purposes that a church so truly apostolic in its zeal shall be the real regenerator of the neighbouring States. A people with such a marvellous history, and such a primitive spirit, must have been preserved for some noble mission. It is their possession of this missionary spirit, and *their singular facility for developing it*, which has led the Students' Missionary Society to plead their cause in our congregations. The Church of the Vaudois is fitted to become the Iona of Italy, *but it is poor*. Let us give it the *means*, and it will give Italy the *men*. It has everything but money. Its *liberty* is increasing. "By the new law of 1848 the Vaudois have power to erect churches and call pastors in every city or town of Piedmont in which there are twenty-five Vaudois. *Under the shelter of these Vaudois temples, the Piedmontese may come and worship, though they would not be allowed to rear places of worship for themselves.* The Italian language, too, is now taught in the Vaudois schools, so that their pupils may soon preach the gospel in all the Papal States. The educational machinery is also singularly complete. The population of the valleys is about 22,000, besides 4000 or 5000 Roman Catholics. There are fifteen parishes, and twenty pastors and evangelists. The form of church government is Presbyterian. There are 169 schools, having 4754 scholars. Every person can read and write, and all can peruse the Scriptures. There is a circulating library in every parish, supported by Englishmen. There is an academy for the training of pastors. It has a *junior* department with ninety-three pupils, and a *senior* with sixteen pupils. It is presided over by eight Professors, and the curriculum of study embraces ten years. In this is included a strictly *Theological course*. This extensive apparatus is kept in working order by a few recent grants from Government, but chiefly by the munificence of English, Dutch, Swiss, and American Christians. Thus the Vaudois can provide more pastors than they require for themselves, but they cannot provide means to send these pastors beyond the valleys. *They are extremely poor, and at the present moment are urgently in need.* "Pressed on every side by the competition of Romanists, whose number it has been the policy and aim of the Government to increase, the Vaudois suffer in many ways from over-population. Land is subdivided in many quarters to an extent that condemns the possessor to indigence: and spots are cultivated which, in a natural state of things, would wisely be abandoned to bareness. Women may be seen carrying soil in baskets up rugged and steep ascents, to spread around the roots of deserted vines. In some parishes it has been no uncommon thing in winter evenings for several families to meet together, that they might work by the light of one lamp; and, in the dearth of fuel, whole families have been known to flee to their 'byres' that they might receive from the breath of their cows some portion of heat." Here then is our case. This primitive, pure, and persecuted church is thoroughly philanthropic, and well fitted to be the reformer of Italy. It has *every necessary but money*. This, we ask *our church* to give. By presenting what funds we gather to the Theological Academy we can best benefit, not only the Vaudois, but also Italy. This is the decided testimony of the Rev. Dr. Gilly, Rev. Baptist Noel, Rev. Dr. Thomson, and Edward Baines, Esq.

With such advice we make our appeal to the churches. Either we can give the Vaudois books, which are to them valuable—for a printing press is not allowed in the valleys—or we can support students—the sum of £4, 3s. 4d. will maintain one for a year—or we can provide for a Professor, which can be done for £60—or we can send forth missionaries from the valleys to the surrounding States. Plainly the cause is one deserving encouragement. This will be the first contribution that the United Presbyterian Church shall have given to this faithful people.* We have been slow to give—let us not be sparing in our gift. The Church of the Vaudois has all the venerableness of age, and none of its infirmities. It has fought for the faith and preserved it in all its primitive purity; and that apostolic zeal for Christ's cause which began to flow in it at the first has circulated through all its history; yea, even now, shows itself in a quenchless desire to bear the message of mercy to a degraded people. Italy needs the Vaudois—the Vaudois need us; and, assuredly, there are none to whom we Scottish Christians—heirs of a blood-bought freedom—could so graciously stretch out our hands as these Covenanters of Piedmont.

* It will be recollected, however, that the children of the U. P. Church raised a sum sufficient to pay one year's salary of a Professor for the Vaudois.