

glorious captain in undisputed possession. Let us all determine to work while it is day. It is a poor church that has few working members, and such a church can never engage in aggressive work.

I have somewhere seen the principle laid down that every congregation and every church must either advance or go back. She must spoil the Kingdom of Satan, or Satan will spoil her. She must either conquer or be conquered. She must bring men out of the dark night of spiritual death, or lose those who belong to her already. She must win souls to Christ, or lose them to the devil. Her progress or decay depends largely upon faithful, earnest, individual work.

J. R. T.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND MISSION IN ROME.

(From the Church of Scotland Home and Foreign Missionary Record.)

SOME of your readers would perhaps like to hear of our mission and movements in Rome, where I officiated for three months this season.

The first Sunday I preached we had 6 worshippers. The attendance, however, gradually crept up. On the Sunday before Christmas we had 90, and on the last Sunday I officiated we had 123. The first Sunday our collection was 1s. 7d., the last it was £3 12s. 8d. During the 13 Sundays I was there, we collected upwards of £18, and we could very easily have largely increased the amount.

We had the communion in the early part of January. It was a dull part of the season, as, after Christmas, a good many leave for Florence and Naples, and do not return till the Carnival, or towards Easter. It was besides a very wet Sunday, and 10 or 12 were in consequence prevented from coming. However, we had 40 communicants; they were of all sects. There were Scotch, English, and Americans, among them. We had them of all classes from the peer to the coachman, from the titled lady to the servant-girl. Sir George Abercromby and Dr. Grigor assisted in the arrangements, and it was a day to be remembered by us all. On the whole, the mission prospered, though there were several things against our success this season. 1. The Council made living and prices high, and families intending to come delayed, or changed their mind. When I left, there were 3000 fewer visitors than at the same period last year. 2. Distinguished preachers of the Romish Church had special English services at our church hours, and naturally many wished to see and hear them. 3. All the Protestant churches are outside the gates, but our room is about 300 yards farther off than the others. Every Sunday there were persons who sought for our place of worship in vain. Of course there is no possibility of advertising such a thing in Rome. 4. The early part of the season was very wet. We had several very rainy Sundays. Naturally some did not venture out, and some who did went to the nearer churches.

Besides our success congregationally, there are several reasons why a Church of Scotland clergyman should be in Rome. 1. There are some Scotchmen connected with the gas-works and elsewhere, among whom good work might be done. 2. There are Scotch male and female servants. The families with whom they are may not go to the Scotch Church. But if they are—as they often are—adherents or members of our Church, they wish to worship in connection with the Church of Scotland. 3. There are hundreds of artists in Rome who have been brought up as Presbyterians. I do not say nothing is done for them, but a great deal more might be done. There were artists in our church while I was there, who had not been in any church for years. It is only after they become distinguished they are sought after. Too often by that time they have forgotten what religiousness they had in youth, and they and their influence are lost to Christianity. 4. Generally those who attend our church in Rome are