

most picturesque. A journey of from two to three hours brought the travellers to Sibaud, the road being so rough from recent repairs that those who drove could not proceed much faster than those on foot. The assembly gathered in the very chestnut grove where the oath was taken, and many had considerable difficulty in climbing to it from the main road. There must have been about five thousand present when Dr. Prochet commenced the service. Two or three members of the Italian Parliament were there, and a large number of church delegates. After prayer and praise, Dr. Prochet gave an eloquent address appropriate to the occasion. Signor Luzzi of Florence preached a powerful sermon from the same text—Luke xvi. 16—from which Pastor Montoux had preached that day two hundred years before; and Signor Pons of Naples gave a succinct and interesting account of what the Waldenses had done since their return to their native valleys, and especially since their emancipation in 1848, when the work of Italian evangelization began. There were several other speakers, both native and foreign.

Before the service closed Dr. Prochet again addressed the assembly with reference to the oath their forefathers had taken, and after reading in their hearing that part of it which relates to faithful allegiance to God; adherence to scriptural truth, efforts to deliver those who are still in the power of "Babylon," and the re-establishment and maintenance of Christ's kingdom even unto death, he solemnly called on all who felt that they could conscientiously renew that oath to lift their hand to Heaven and do so. The great majority of the assembly lifted their hand and bound themselves by that oath. It was a solemn moment, and many wept for joy.

A graceful pyramid has been erected on the spot, bearing the names of the principal places associated with the return, and of the chief mission stations now flourishing in Italy.

But I must hasten to say a few words about Monday's proceedings. At an early hour the king's representative arrived, and was received by the ecclesiastical, civil and military authorities. Flags were flying at nearly every window, all work seemed to be suspended, even by Roman Catholics, and the streets presented a most animated appearance. At 10 A. M. a large assembly, again favored with lovely weather, gathered just outside of the *Casa Valdese*. The Moderator of the Table presided, and gave a short but admirable address. The speaker appointed for the occasion, however, was Rev. William Meille, and difficult though

his task was, no one could have acquitted himself better. In the presence of the presence of the king's representative and other state officials, some of whom were known to have strong clerical leanings, there was the temptation to say little about the religious aspects of the bi-centenary, and to dwell mainly on the benefit we enjoyed under a good king and a liberal government. But Signor Meille did not yield to any such temptation. His noble oration brought out clearly that it was not merely to re-establish themselves in their native land that their forefathers fought, but that they might rekindle in it the lamp of divine truth; that they were essentially a Bible people; and that, as General Beckwith once said, they must now be either missionaries or nothing. All he said was said with the greatest tact, the finest feeling, and the most thrilling eloquence, and made an excellent impression on all present. At the close the royal commissioner, who had not been able to restrain a tear from his eye, rose hastily from his seat, seized Meille's hand, and thanked him with the utmost cordiality. Some of the senators and deputies, speaking afterwards said that what struck them most in the Waldenses, and in that day's proceedings, was that what they had found impossible with the Roman Catholic faith seemed to be quite natural with the Evangelical faith—namely, the unity of piety and patriotism—faith in God and love of country.

I cannot dwell any longer on this point. Suffice it is to say that many of us are persuaded that the occasion marks an important epoch in the history of the Waldenses and of Italian evangelization; and we are hopeful that our friends will have wisdom and grace to press forward in their work, humbly trusting not to earthly potentates or any other arm of flesh, but to Him in whose hand even the king's heart is, and who can turn it, like the rivers of water, whithersoever he will.

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The following incident is related of an old Alaskan. The day before he died, a missionary saw a Bible tied to the top of a stick about three feet long, set in the ground near his head, and asked why the book was tied there. The old man said, "I can't read; but I know that is the great Word; so when my heart gets weak I just look up at that book, and say, 'Father that is your book; no one to teach me to read; very good you helps me; then my heart gets stronger, the bad goes away.'"