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See before

as well as I possibly could, an outline of the free salvation of the Gospel. With these poor people, who knew nothing of the Gospel, it will not do to attempt controversy or a refutation of their Catholic ideas. No; they will leave you immediately. The Gospel, the love of Christ, the free offer of salvation, the rest for the weary, burdened soul, all, all free, without money and without price, is that which reaches them sooner than aught else. They listened, gazed nodded approbation one to the other, saying sometimes, "Lo credo! Lo credo!" (I believe it! I believe it). After praying with them, I asked them if they had any question they wished to ask me. Immediately one said, "What about the Madonna?" (the Holy Virgin.) I merely read the birth of Jesus, the marriage of Mary and Joseph, &c., as contained in the 1st of Matthew and 1st of Luke, and remarked in conclusion, "The Virgin certainly was a holy woman, worthy of being the example of all women; but she cannot save us—Jesus only can." I gave some little tracts to those who could read, and they went away apparently satisfied. From these little meetings already begins to arise quite a conversation and we sincerely hope it will increase even to persecution, if such be the will of God; for it is almost the only way to interest the people who care for no religion.

"But I must close, but with the earnest request of your assistance by prayer. You, dear brother, who have seen our missionaries in their fields of labor, know something of their difficulties, of their weakness of their discouragements and of their often dejections. Strengthen them by your prayers."

PICTURE OF A DUTCH SYNOD.

In the year 1834, there was organized, in Holland, the Reformed Secession Church. It has now 177 ministers, 273 congregations, and about 60,000 connected with it. It has a Theological Institute at Kampen, in the Province of Overijssel. Connected with it are three Professors, and about 41 students, 24 of whom are studying Theology. The Church is strictly orthodox, and is supported by the voluntary contributions of the people. The Synod, which appears to be of a representative character, is composed of 40 members,—20 ministers and 20 elders,—and meets once in three years. The Rev. Drs. Thomson and Somerville, of the United Presbyterian Church, attended, as Deputies of the Synod of their Church, the last meeting of the Reformed Secession Church in Holland, which took place at Francken, in the Province of Friesland, in August last. An interesting account of the visit of these Deputies is contained in the last number of the Missionary Record of the United Presbyterian Church. We subjoin the account which they give of the mode of conducting business in the Synod, and the reception of the Deputies. In some respects—we specially allude to the prevalence of smoking—they are somewhat in advance of us:—

"THE SYNOD ENGAGED IN BUSINESS.—It was arranged that the deputies were to be formally received at four o'clock on the afternoon of Monday, the 24th; but they deemed it respectful to visit the Synod in the forenoon, and they were present for more than two hours. The chairs on which the women sit were removed, and two long tables, one across and one down the floor, with seats on both sides, occupied their place. The president sits at the middle of the cross table, with the vice president at his right hand, and the three professors on his left; and opposite the president, a little to the left, is the clerk of the court, who is the minister of Amsterdam. Near the moderator, a little to the right, was a neat article containing a stalk of clean pipes; and all along the tables, in the midst of papers, pens, ink, and books, were dishes filled with cut tobacco, lucifer matches, and an iron vessel full of hot peat ashes. All the members, with one exception, had long pipes, to the contents of which, often replenished, they did ample justice. The moderator, a very respectable-looking man, who wore a Calvin cap, had a huge, long-shanked Meerschaum pipe, which he did not allow to go out all the time that we were there; and the