

men. During last session of Parliament a bill was passed authorizing the appointment and payment, at the public expense, of Popish priests in the jails of Britain. It would appear that when this bill was passed, the Government pledged themselves to follow it up with a compulsory act if necessary,—in other words, an act, not only to allow, but to compel every prison district of Great Britain containing Romish criminals to support a priest at the public expense. Here, then, we have the Reformation principle overthrown, and in immediate prospect the first framework of another Romish Church Establishment set up in Britain. The *Weekly Register*, the organ of Cardinal Wiseman, in a leading article on the defects which the attempts to appoint Romish chaplains under the recent act have met with at several of the magistrates' courts in England, and having reference to the permissive character of the measure, says,—"We do not ourselves expect that the measure will be brought into practical operation in a dozen places in England, or in one place in Scotland. Ministers are, however, pledged to amend the act, if experience should prove that it is a failure; and before Easter we shall be in a position to demand of them the fulfilment of their promise." Thus the great work of subverting the Reformation is going on step by step: and, meantime, the country seems drugged into stupor, and the great mass of our pulpits and platforms are dumb.

THE MEANS OF DEFENCE AND RESISTANCE.

Now, it was for the purpose of meeting this anticipated state of things that, about the time of the Papal aggression, the Scottish Reformation Society was formed, and the Protestant Institute of Scotland was projected. Romanism has two sides, and makes her aggressions in two ways—the one mainly political and social, the other religious. To meet mainly its one aspect, the Scottish Reformation Society was originated; and it has vigilantly watched over the proceedings of Rome in Parliament, and in the country, and endeavoured, with some success, by means of lectures, publications, petitions to the Legislature, and otherwise, to awaken to action all to whom the dearly-bought privileges of the Reformation were precious, and to defeat the machinations of the enemy. It was to meet the other aspect of Rome that the Protestant Institute of Scotland was projected,—viz, to instruct our youth in the religious principles of Popery, as opposed to Protestantism. The object of it, as I have said, is to enlighten all classes of the community, and especially all students, and future ministers, and teachers, in regard to the tone, nature, and bearings of the Romish controversy, and this without regard to sect or denomination. The Romish controversy was anterior to the divisions of Protestants, and Rome claims nothing short of the entire destruction of all the divisions of the Protestant ranks. We propose to accomplish our object by means of lectures, training-classes, and a well-selected library. We already extend our operations to Glasgow with much success; and we propose to extend them as soon as possible to other leading towns of Scotland. Moreover, it is hoped that this will be a centre from whence well-trained missionaries will go forth to Romish districts, proclaiming the unsearchable riches of Christ, and instructing all classes in the Word of God.

ORDINARY MEANS INSUFFICIENT, SPECIAL MEASURES NECESSARY.

But some may be ready to say, admitting all this to be true, is not the ordinary machinery of the Church sufficient to meet this emergency! Now, we do not in the least undervalue the machinery of the Church,—we need it all and more; but experience has proved that, in the times in which we live, it is not sufficient. The ordinary army may be sufficient in ordinary times; but when an invasion comes, all men must hasten to the rescue, and be trained to the use of arms. The ordinary staff of sailors in a ship may be sufficient during quiet and plain sailing; but when a leak is sprung all must, if necessary, get to the pumps, and when the ship is boarded by pirates, all must combine in repelling the attack. Such are our national circumstances at present. The idea, however, which we have on this subject will depend very much on our sense of danger,