

Church is but a small body—its ministers being but forty in number; but they are eminently a working Church—Presbyterian in polity, evangelical in doctrine and missionary in spirit. They now occupy most of the leading Italian cities; and God is greatly blessing their work. British missionaries, especially those of the Free Church of Scotland, are also meeting with most encouraging success.

The state of things in France and Belgium is in many respects similar to that which exists in Italy. Everywhere the masses of the people are nominally Romanists, to the number of over sixty millions in these three countries, while the number of nominal Protestants in all three does not probably reach two millions. The number of gospel preaching ministers is but a few hundreds; and the number of really pious people, but a few thousands. "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few." Among these few labourers, however, are to be found some of the most distinguished men; and schools, seminaries, periodicals, books, and especially preaching the gospel, are the means employed by our Christian brethren in these countries to bring their countrymen to the knowledge of the truth. Popery of the sour, heretic-burning stamp is at a discount in France, and the Jesuits themselves admit the *popularity* of Protestantism. The National Reformed Church of that country has long been infected with gross "rationalism," now however "the sleep of death is past, energized orthodoxy has arisen, the spirit of the Lord is breathing over it, and year by year, life and love and zeal have streamed into consistory after consistory, church after church, bringing the hearts as well as the lips of the children back to their fathers' God and their fathers' Bible." A remarkable revival took place in Paris a short time ago and is still prevailing. In Belgium recent developments of remarkable cruelty and immorality on the part of Popish ecclesiastics, have justly excited odium against the Church they represent, and serves to open the way for the Gospel, in its scriptural purity and simplicity.

That religion is advancing in Spain may be judged from the violent persecution to which a few professors have been subjected by the Popish authorities for the "crime" of reading the Holy Scriptures. Sir Robert Peel has pled the cause of these oppressed and persecuted ones with noble enthusiasm before the British Parliament and people.

There are good news from the far East—from China, and Japan, and Siam, and India, and from many islands of the sea. In no case do we read of retrogression—in almost all we find satisfactory progress. The universal cry is for more labourers to rush in and reap the whitened fields. Persia is at present attracting Christian interest from the fact that a remarkable revival prevails among the Nestorians under the teaching of the American missionaries. Within a short time "more than four hundred individuals are regarded as having given good evidence of conversion to God." These converts have exhibited a truly apostolic spirit of liberality, giving abundantly out of their poverty for the spiritual benefit of others. O that we could see a spirit like this in Nova Scotia: "Those who had no money pledged portions of the fruit of their little vineyards. Some offered wheat, some cotton, others butter and eggs. Women took off their ornaments—ear-rings, nose jewels, embroidered head-dresses, &c., and cast them into the treasury of the Lord. Young girls who had carefully saved hard-earned little sums to buy a new dress, offered their treasures. A perfect baptism of enthusiastic benevolence seemed poured out upon the people." If these poor Nestorians could arise thus in the spirit of self-sacrifice and work for their Lord, what should not we do for him!