

are hardly up to those of the previous year. For various reasons we have resolved to change the object of our bounty, and have agreed that during this year our Scheme of Effort shall be "The Theological Academy of the Waldensian Church. In taking this step we have received ample approbation. The Church of the Vaudois has many claims on our sympathy and support. It is not to be expected that these can be fully illustrated here. We shall merely mention some—asking the congregations to wait for a more full enforcement of them in the Addresses of the Students.

First,—This church claims our support on the ground of its *antiquity*. The Church of the Vaudois can trace its career up to the very verge of the apostolic age. It is probable that those in whose hearts lingered the echoes of the voice of the Apostle of Love were yet alive when this people, dwelling alone, were numbered among the disciples of our Lord. "Or it may be that the first whose beautiful feet were beheld upon those mountains, publishing the glad tidings of peace, were some of the refugees who had fled from persecution under the Roman emperors, and that they then lighted a fire among those Alpine fastnesses, which, by God's help, has never gone out."

Secondly,—This Church claims our support because *it has always held a pure faith*. We do not, indeed, affirm, that declension has never blighted its fruits of godliness. Every Church as an exotic here must suffer, more or less, by times from the withering blasts of this bleak climate. And so the Church of the Vaudois had its seasons when its vintage failed. But these were only two, and they were brief. The quickening Spirit breathed on these valleys, and the transient fog passed away. Now, the light of truth, shielded from all storms by the circling hills, burns bright in these lamp-like churches. No doubt the Roman Catholic inhabitants are introducing some customs of which we cannot approve. Perhaps the observance of the Sabbath is too loose, and the terms of admission to the communion too lax. But good men are anxious to overcome these evil practices, and the progress of the last fifteen years proves that they will prevail. Take the following testimony from the elegant pen of an eye-witness:—"Perhaps there is no community in the world among whom morality is so high-toned and universal. Intemperance, licentiousness, falsehood and dishonesty, are crimes almost unknown. The fall of a Vaudois into any flagrant sin is so rare as to excite, when it happens, universal sorrow. Prayer meetings, which are among the surest thermometers of the spiritual warmth of a people, are on the increase; and the ancient habit of storing large portions of Scripture in the memory of the Vaudois youth has not grown obsolete." Nor is this steadfastness of the Vaudois in the vital principles of religion a new thing. When the darkness of Popery spread over every land, the churches of the Vaudois were the only stars shining in that night. As they themselves truthfully say, they are the only people "that never sucked the milk of the wolf of Rome." The standard of the Cross was handed to them by the pupils of *Apostles*, and they never knew how to let it fall. At this day their faith is as firm as the hills among which it has found an asylum, and pure as the untrodden snow which crowns the mountain tops.

Thirdly,—This Church claims our support because it has adhered to this pure faith *amid bitter persecution*. Time would fail us to tell of the many terrible massacres to which it has been subjected. For the honour of human nature one desires to draw a veil over the atrocities of human passion. The Dukes of Savoy have ever made these hills and vales their favourite hunting-ground; while the worried game found refuge in clefts and peaks known only to the chamois and eagle. The page of history has no pictures so bloody as those which illustrate the anguish and death of these martyrs, and no portrait so noble as those which portray the heroes of the Vaudois. To the strength of their hills, and the succour of their God do they owe their preservation, for all that man could do was done to exterminate them, and make their homes silent as their Alpine heights.

Fourthly,—This pure Church claims our support because, though persecuted, it *has ever possessed a strong missionary spirit*. In troublous times it gave the gospel to Switzerland, Moravia, Bohemia, and Germany. Even Walter Lollard, a name dear to our own land, is claimed as a Vaudois missionary. And by the generosity of British and American Christians, it is now developing this same spirit. Churches are being formed in Turin, Genoa, Oneglia, Favale, Nice, and Pignoral. Doubtless