

"Your excellent, and, by us all, much respected agent is away on his travels; but before he left, he authorized my writing to you in case I should receive any fresh details about the little gathering at Yznatoraf, in the province of Jaen, referred to in his report, and it so happens that I can give you some additional and very interesting information about it, lately received.

"In consequence of the very decided stand which the Protestants of Yznatoraf have made, asking for a cemetery in which their dead may be decently buried, and declining to allow the new-born child of a member to be baptized in the Roman Catholic Church, there has been quite a stir in the village. Some of the members were summoned before the local authorities, and were asked, 'Who is your chief?' 'We have no chief but Jesus Christ,' was the simple reply. 'Who is the man who teaches amongst you? he must go up to Jaen, the capital, to the Governor. So the leader of the meetings went to Jaen on foot, a distance of some thirty miles. The Governor was very kind, and lamented that the villager should have left the faith of his forefathers; this gave the latter the opportunity of preaching the Gospel to the Governor, which he tells me he did. What an interesting scene; the simple man testifying before the Governor of Jesus Christ! 'Convince me that I am wrong,' he added, 'and I will make a public confession of my sin.' The Governor sent him with a card to a priest, who was to bring back the wandering sheep. But the Bible in the hands of the simple man was too much for the priest, who only brought forward man's word; our Protestant answered him with the Word of God: to the authority of the Church he opposed the authority of Christ. Still the discussion did good, and priest and Protestant parted good friends, as did also the Governor, who gave our friend money to aid him in his journey home, promising that the Protestants shall have their cemetery. The Bishop of Jaen, one of the most bigoted and violent in Spain, now comes on the scene. He summoned the parish priest of Yznatoraf to Jaen, and report says the interview was a stormy one. The blame of the existence of Protestants was laid at his door, and when the priest humbly ventured a word in his defence, the Bishop told him 'to hold his tongue, to return to his parish, and that he (the Bishop) would decide what to do with him.' Was this intended as a hint? In the first sermon preached after his return from Jaen, the priest said everything short of ordering the Roman Catholics to murder every Protestant.

"If we had numerous movements such as the above in the villages of Spain it would save the country.

"And all this blessing is owing, under God, to the conversion of one man through a Gospel bought from one of your colporteurs, and then through the circulation in the village of the periodical of the 'El Cristiano,' published by the Religious Tract Society: union work, owned and blessed of God, between the British and Foreign Bible Society and the Religious Tract Society.

"Matters are not in a very hopeful state at present in Spain; the drift is every day more and more towards Rome on the part of the Government; whilst on the part of the people, disgust at and hatred of the system, the acceptance of infidelity, the hardening of the conscience by an outward conformity to rites against which both heart and conscience protest, deepen daily. And what will the end be?

"We are drifting towards a national break-up.

"Meanwhile God is taking out His people. And you are allowed to have the grand privilege of being the instruments to a very great degree in this work. Never was there more urgent need for Bible Colportage. But the work is more difficult now than it was, for many reasons. The Government discommenances it; the priests, with their regained power, persecute it; and the people, hardening under infidelity and priestcraft, regard it with ever-increasing indifference. Alas for Spain!

"It shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, 'that I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh;' so Spain is included. Her day will come too.