

forced them, from motives of policy, not to take possession of the old church they had bought, has had the effect of enlisting many on their side; and the only thing now wanted to give stability and permanence to the footing they have acquired, is a suitable and commodious place of worship. This, it is confidently expected, they will soon be in possession of; but, in the meantime, they depend upon England and Scotland for the funds to enable them to erect such a building.

The sitting of the triennial Synod of the Vaudois Church lasted from Monday the 29th May to Friday the 2d June. The Maidai were present, several Italian priests, converts from Popery, Dr. Stewart of Leghorn, Mr. Hanna of Florence, with others from England. The Synod gave decided proofs of progress since the last meeting in 1851, when it held its first free Assembly under the new Constitution in Piedmont. Several practical measures were proposed, and resolutions passed to carry them into effect. Among these was one that Elders should be examined previous to ordination, and that, in place of being elected, as hitherto, by the district in which they resided, and of which they were to have the oversight, they should be chosen by the suffrages of the whole parish. The establishment of a Home Mission for preaching in destitute places, and for colportage, was another favorable step of progress. The returns made to the Synod showed that there are 4421 scholars at the schools,—about one-fifth of the population. In the college at La Tour there are 93 students under eight professors, who fill the chairs of ancient and modern languages, philosophy, and natural science; and it was resolved, by the unanimous vote of the Synod, to render the course of study complete, by the establishment of a theological faculty. But thereupon a long and warm debate ensued, whether the new professors of theology should hold their classes at La Tour or at Turin, the capital. The former was carried. Official communications, received from the Free Church of Scotland, the Reformed Dutch Church of New York, the Associated Churches of America, and the Synodical Commission of the Union of the Evangelical Churches of France, were read to the Synod, which passed resolutions to maintain fraternal communication with these Churches.

The Synod resolved to hold an extraordinary meeting in May 1855, to discuss the code of an ecclesiastical constitution, which a commission has been charged to prepare; as well as a new catechism for the use of the Church, the want of which, in Italy, is greatly felt.

Napoleon Roussell has been visiting the Valleys, and preaching almost every day for a fortnight to large audiences. On the 6th, 7th, and 8th August, he preached in the new church at Turin. The Waldenses held their annual festival this year on the 15th August, at the Balsille, at the head of the Valley of St. Martin. This spot has been chosen on account of being so famous in their history, for the resistance made by the 800 to the united armies of France and Savoy, composed of 22,000 men; to which noble daring, humanly speaking, the Evangelical Church of Italy owes its existence.

A new publication in defence of Protestant truth has been started in Turin, under the title of "La Luce Evangelica." It is published once a fortnight.

Persecutions continue in Tuscany, and in the Neapolitan States. Many are now lying in dungeons for no other crime than the possession and reading of the Bible. Jansenism has been making some partizans at Naples, which has been followed by the arrestment and imprisonment of the parties. At Ancona and Bologna there are more than 400 in prison, under suspicion of having renounced the errors of Rome. Two of those, who have been confined for many months in Tuscany, have been brought to trial at last, and sentenced to ten months' imprisonment. These poor people have not the advantage which the Maidai enjoyed of being known to the English.

Another trial has just taken place in Florence for the crime of reading the Scriptures. The prisoners were Pietro Baldi, a mason, and Michele Manguoli, a shoemaker, and both are arraigned for holding religious meetings in their