

ROMAN CATHOLIC MISSION OF THE IRISH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The evangelization of the Roman Catholic districts of Ireland is one special part of her Home Mission work. This work is carried on in various localities, in Dublin, Cork, a district in the central counties, and in the Province of Connaught. We subjoin extracts from the annual report, with reference to the work in Connaught. One particular field is described as a specimen of the whole.

"It is twelve miles long by seven broad. An old Protestant colony is spread over two townlands, and their descendants still nearly equal in number their Romanist neighbours; in the remainder, Protestants are not more than two per cent. of the population, and in some townlands there is not a single Protestant.

The Missionary has a comfortable Manse with sufficient land, and a neat, commodious church in which he preaches twice each Sabbath; and each week holds a prayer-meeting and Bible-class. He has three preaching stations, two of them two miles distant from his church, the other six. The other means of reformation employed are Sabbath and daily schools, colportage, and lending library.

The congregation attending public worship numbers above a hundred. Attending the three day schools are eighty-one scholars, of whom forty-four are Romanists. The teacher of one of these schools holds an evening school for adults, of which their esteemed teacher says "The third winter has passed away, and though many of our former pupils are now in distant lands, new ones have taken their place. The number in regular attendance is seventeen. all Romanists, aged from seventeen to thirty-five. They are teachable, and gentle, and their progress in useful knowledge is very satisfactory. They are taught reading, writing from dictation, arithmetic, geography, and grammar. Many are members of the Temperance Society. All have Bibles, highly prized and carefully read. In my dealing with them, I have avoided all religious controversy, my whole aim being to commend God's word to their notice, knowing that in the hand of the Holy Spirit it will prove the most efficient teacher. A new branch of this school has lately sprung up, composed wholly of grown girls, all Romanists."

Besides the Bible-class of fourteen, taught by the Missionary himself, there are two others at the Missionary Stations, one of twelve, the other of thirty-eight pupils, twenty-four of the thirty-eight being Romanists who come voluntarily, though the instruction given is strictly Scriptural, and religious tracts and periodicals are freely circulated, which thus introduce truth to hearts and homes which would otherwise be inaccessible.

The Colporteur of this Mission paid, last year, 600 religious visits to Romanist families, and 367 to Protestants, during which he was heard by 2,014 persons, exclusive of children. He read portions of Scripture, in English and Irish, to 438 families, and sold six Bibles, twenty-eight Testaments, seventeen religious books, gave 438 tracts, lent and exchanged among Romanists and Protestants fifty-six library books. Twenty-six persons get these books regularly from him to read, and, when read, exchange them for others. There is unhappily too good reason for the smallness of the number of books sold; for the people are in the deepest poverty; the last three years have pressed them down with a burden, from under which it is doubtful whether they shall ever rise. Well is it for those who can escape from it to other lands, but the bereaved Missionary mourns their loss. One, for example, assisted in the prayer-meeting, but he is now in England; and two others, useful as he, are away to America. Thus our ranks are thinned, and our harvest seems lost, but it will be reaped elsewhere. In the meantime it is very consolatory to know, that wherever there are families whose children attended a Mission school, or where the parents have themselves attended, the Scripture reader