

## RELIGIOUS NEWS FROM FRANCE.

[From a Correspondent of the N. Y. Observer.]

Montauban, 12th June.

The present situation of France, in a religious point of view, offers subjects both of fear and of hope, both of regret and of satisfaction. Certainly political passions oppose, in some places, great obstacles to the labors of our evangelists. Many men prefer to go to clubs rather than to chapels, to read the newspaper rather than the Bible. When the mind is absorbed with early conflicts, how can it be open to the good seed, and what serious attention is to be expected from persons who ask every morning: 'Is there not to be a new revolution before night?'

Yet these very circumstances produce in other individuals quite a contrary effect, and according to the words of the apostle Paul, what is to the one a savor of death unto death, is to the other a savor of life unto life (2 Cor. ii. : 16.) The misery and sufferings caused by the revolution of 1848 have disposed numbers to listen more attentively to the good news of salvation, and this result does not surprise the Christian. When all goes well in the world, when it is easy to satisfy the desires and passions, there is in our frail hearts an irresistible desire for what gratifies our selfishness and vanity. But when the scene suddenly changes, when the riches and pleasures of this world take wings and fly away, the thoughts become more serious, the voice of conscience is heard, and the soul seeks something more solid, more stable than objects here below. This effect is very sensible in most of our evangelical stations.

Another cause of progress is the deep apprehension, the continual anxiety created by the upheavings of the foundations of our society. We are going? Can we stand against the force of the tempest? What firm principles, what sure supports remain in the universal ruin? Is it not our most imperious and sacred religion, in order to bring back order, peace, and harmony to our country? These reflections have struck many persons of intelligence, and have prepared them to study more carefully the precepts of Christianity.

Add to this that the Republican government given us, at least for the present, a liberty which we were far from enjoying before. Evangelists can establish places of worship wherever they please, without having to fear the denunciations of a popish curate, or the prosecutions of a bigoted judge. Teachers have a right to set up schools, and colporters to sell Bibles, without first asking leave. These are very valuable advantages. I do not know that this full religious liberty will last long. The French are fickle; the priests are intriguing and cunning; our laws are changed from day to day, and what is allowed to-day will be perhaps forbidden to-morrow. But the friends of the gospel avail themselves of the opportunity while it lasts to extend the sphere of their labors.

The great city of Lyons has often been mentioned in our correspondence, because the Lord designs to perform there wonderful works.