

influential Romanists shall be no longer engrossed in urgent political matters. At one of the prayer-meetings just held in London, on the occasion of the Œcumenical Council, Dr. Davis gave an account of the progress of Protestantism in Italy and Spain. In the latter country, he said, encouraging progress has been made in many of the large towns; but still it was impossible to say what might take place in Spain any day. The Republican party was mainly infidels; the Carlist party was more Papal than the Pope himself; and the intermediate parties could not be relied upon.—*The Christian Union*.

### AUSTRIA AND ITALY.

“One day a young Englishman entered one of the Depots of our Society in Austria, accompanied by a young Italian, a Roman Catholic. The latter had already a Bible, but he looked at our editions with the utmost suspicion. We had an opportunity of conversing with him pretty fully about the Scriptures, and we had the pleasure to see that his reserve melted away completely. He expressed himself highly satisfied with his visit, and said he would now recommend our Bibles to all his friends. He was very glad to find we entertained no proselytizing schemes in favour of any particular denomination, and that we merely wished to disseminate the Word of God, as showing the way of salvation for all parties and all nations. A man from the neighbouring Italian province of Udine expressed his lively joy that the Bible was now being freely sold in Austria. He told us a great deal about the operations of the Bible Society in Italy, and spoke of the Society with much affection and reverence. He said the Scriptures supplied by the Society had driven him and many others out of the Romish Church, and that he now followed the Lord Jesus, and Him alone. He belongs to the ‘Free Italian Church,’ an Association which seems not yet to have come to any definite conclusions as to its creed and its constitution. Speaking of his conversion, the good man laid his hand on the Bible, and said that was his greatest treasure, and it was his delight to disseminate it among those who did not yet know it.

“Several *facchini* (day-labourers) have bought the New Testament, some an entire Bible, and they seem to read it with great interest. They say, ‘In our Churches we understand nothing of what our priests say: we wish to read and examine what the Lord Jesus Himself has said.’ With many the hatred of Rome is intense, and generally they freely express it; but some are not without deeper religious convictions and a measure of experience, and in a few we have ever found evidence of a hearty love to the Lord Jesus. It frequently happens that those who have bought a copy return, after a few days, in company with other persons.

“A young Roman Catholic came to buy a Bible. On his wanderings he had visited Berne and Basle, and had there found ‘a more acceptable form of Divine worship,’ which, as he said, went to the root of true Christianity. He accounted himself happy that the Lord had led him thither.

“Another very respectable and intelligent young person told us that at the Paris Exhibition a ‘Portion’ had been given him, and his attention had thus been directed to the Society. With surprise and admiration he had heard of its operations: the idea appeared so grand to him that his whole heart was full of it. He spoke a long while, and we had the satisfaction to perceive that the ‘Portion’ had not been left without a blessing to him. He was now going to make the Bible his study. It gives us much satisfaction to state that, owing to the distribution at the Paris Exhibition, many have come and expressed themselves in a similar way.

“Among the more intelligent Roman Catholics a spiritualistic tendency is perceptible here and there. There are several here that incline towards Swedenborg’s views, and I am inclined to think this is found not only in single individuals, but that they have formed a sort of Society.