

the almost helpless Vaudois in the face on those bleak mountains. Pen or tongue will never fully tell the sufferings and horrors of those cheerless months. But the patriots found the impassable snows of winter and the caves to be their true friends. The spring brought on the struggle for life or death. On May 1, 1690, came the heroic storming of the Balsi by the Vaudois, and a second terrible defeat of their enemies. On the 14th of the same month they made a second attempt on the same fortress, but with a most disastrous result. They were defeated and scattered. And thus the bitter struggle went on. For six months 367 Vaudois, confined in the Balsi, repelled 10,000 French and 12,000 Piedmontese. But at last, shattered and dispirited as they were, the sacred cause seemed all but lost.

Then it was that the God of battles seemed to the waiting eyes of His servants to bare His arm, and the mountains were indeed full of horses and chariots. Help came as unexpectedly as it did to young Prussia when her very existence trembled in the balance at the close of the seven years' war, and a friend unexpectedly mounted the throne of Russia and saved Prussia to hold the balance of power in the latter part of the nineteenth century. A rupture took place between the courts of Versailles and Turin. War was declared by the latter power. The Duke of Turin saw that he could not afford to waste his energies on a few mountaineers who had so baffled the allied French and Italian troops. He needed more soldiers who knew the frontier. He forgave the Waldensians, established them in their old home, while in turn many of them volunteered in his service. Peace settled down at last on Piedmont, and Protestantism was finally established in Italy, never again to be vanquished.

The Waldensian Church to-day, spread over the length and breadth of sunny Italy, and sending its missionaries and money to South Africa, is a sufficient return for all the heroic sufferings undergone during almost seven centuries of the most aggravating persecutions. To-day it teaches the pure, simple gospel under the very walls of the Vatican, and no one can say it nay. Most appropriate is it, then, that this 16th of August should be celebrated throughout the evangelical world. As the voice of praise goes up in the assembly at the little Alpine village of Torre Pellice on this anniversary, let Christendom join in the glad refrain! As the Waldensians look back over two hundred years, they recount many a weary struggle, but the way was ever leading out into the light, and most appropriate is the legend upon their official seal—"*Lux lucet in tenebris.*" During the struggle between Victor Armadeus and France the Vaudois were faithful soldiers in his service. At one time the Duke fled to the valleys and was protected by the devout patriots. In 1726 he publicly promised them security from all their enemies. Friends cannot live always, but the Church of Rome seems to. Under the rulers of Turin that followed, the Waldensians