

English Notes.

BY JAMES DOUGLAS.

Baptist Missionary Society: Persecution in Italy.—The Rev. James Wall, of Rome, in a letter of some length, has set forth the persecution to which Baptist brethren in Central Italy have been subjected. Grave fears were entertained lest, through false witness and the intimidation of priests, justice would have miscarried. The greatest praise, however, is due to the presiding judge for the heroism which he personally displayed in the conduct of the trial. One of the witnesses who, through fear, had contradicted her first depositions, confessed, after a night of weeping in jail, that she had been seized by some of the accused, and, with a knife at her throat, obliged to promise not to confirm her first testimony. At the trial a wheelbarrow was produced in which stones of twelve or fifteen pounds' weight were taken to the scene of action. The trial was noteworthy alike for the impotent rage of the persecutors and the calm and effective testimony of the persecuted. The latter breathed the spirit of Christ and converted the court-house into a gospel hall. A deacon stated that before he heard the Gospel in Tivoli he was without any knowledge of God's Word; that the Protestants taught him to read, led him to the Saviour, and that when he was able to build himself a house he consecrated the best room in it to the preaching of the Gospel, hoping others might receive what had so benefited his own soul. It was grand to see how a few simple, persecuted believers rose above their old discouraged selves when they spoke of Christ and held the court breathless. Now that the work of Christ in the Marsica has passed through this fiery trial, and the whole province has been filled with rumors of grace and reform, the time seems come to sow the seed, to preach the Word, and to expect among these, the loftiest regions of the Apennines, a succession of churches like that of St. Benedetto, which has so nobly met the

pitiless persecution of the apostate priesthood.

News from Calcutta.—An interesting sign of the times is the fact that the Arjya Literary Society in Calcutta are now engaged translating the Bible into classical Bengali. They have asked and obtained the assistance of representative men of the Christian communities lest anything should appear in the translation which should make it anti-Christian in tone. The whole of Matthew's gospel is now in manuscript. The Rev. Herbert Anderson, who furnishes this intelligence, says: "It seems to me marvellous that this small band of broad-minded, educated, non-Christian Bengali gentlemen of this city should realize the benefit and have the desire of giving the Bible to their fellow-countrymen in the way they propose." May we not infer "that Christ is conquering and will conquer"?

Presbyterian Church of England.—The same missionary number which publishes valuable notes from the Rev. William Thone, M.A., contains the sad intelligence of his death. He had just been over a large part of the Formosan field. His faithfulness and affection in dealing with the native churches were beyond all praise. Of him Dr. Maxwell writes: "Dear Thone was so universally esteemed and beloved by his brother missionaries and by the people alike that no single loss to the mission could, humanly speaking, be heavier than this." The late Mr. Thone thus sums up his final missionary tour: "On the whole, I have been much cheered by my visits to our Chinese churches, but much less so by the visits paid to aboriginal churches."

Siong-see, China.—A church has been built in this fishing village of 10,000 inhabitants. It is set on a hill, and is visible from afar both on land and sea. The people have subscribed \$400 to the cost of erection.

Chin-Chew.—The girls' and women's schools flourish under the able care of Miss Graham and Miss Ramsey. "It