

fifty francs. They had no money, and he remanded them to prison for another ten days. Two days later he set them free ; for the priest had complained that *his parishioners stood morning and evening before the prison*, listening to the hymns they sang ; and that the interest and sympathy they were exciting would only make more Protestants ! And so they were set free.

This brief narrative of facts may serve to show us how the living God is moving with His mission band. Even in the land of the Holy Office, the blood of the martyrs, that seed of the church, is now springing up from soil black with the ashes of the "heretics." The first instance in which the blood of a heretic was shed by the solemn forms of law was in 385, when Priscillian, leader of the Gnostics in Spain, was put to the sword at the instigation of Bishop Itacius. And now, 1,500 years after, the pure, sweet gospel is flowing like the river of the water of life, to turn that desert of the Inquisition into the garden of the Lord.

The ecclesiastical history of Spain is written in blood. The Aragonese branch of the Inquisition can be traced as far back as 1232 ; at first its severest sentence was the confiscation of property ; toward the close of the 15th century the Cardinal Archbishop of Seville gave it a new impulse, and it assumed in time the huge proportions of a monster, becoming more despotic and cruel than in any other European state. In 1478 a papal bull authorized the establishment of the Tribunal, and the consent of Ferdinand and Isabella gave it the sanction of Royalty. The first formal court was established at Seville, and on Jan. 6, 1481, the first *auto da fe* was held, six persons being burned alive. In 1483 Torquemada became Grand Inquisitor General of all Spain, and the organic laws of the new Tribunal were framed, which Inquisitor General Valdez, in 1561, brought to their final form. Appointed jointly by King and Pope, the inquisitors-general became invested with absolute power. Llorente estimates that under Torquemada 8,800 were burned ; under Seza, 1,664 ; under Ximenes, 2,536. From 1483 to 1808—when Joseph Bonaparte abolished the Inquisition—the estimate is : burned alive, 31,912 ; burned in effigy, 17,659 ; subjected to various pains, penalties and penances, 291,450, a *total number of victims reaching* 323,362 !

Yet here, in this central fortress of Inquisitorial horrors and terrors, the word of God, the gospel tract, the song of grace, the transformed life of saintly men and women, without one carnal weapon, are moving with the power of God, to turn the land of many martyrs into the land of many churches and schools of Christ. Spain may yet lead Christendom in the defence of the Protestant faith.