

“Suffer no one, then, to hinder you from drawing near to the Gospel, and hearing the voice of the Bridegroom. Listen to this voice, and reflect that as the flower only then displays the beauty and full magnificence of its colours when it turns incessantly towards the light of the sun, so also the soul of the Christian can only then reflect the full beauty and glory of its Divine Exemplar when she betakes herself perpetually to the hallowed light of the glorious Gospel, and gathers brightness from its beams. Read not Scripture *inquisitively*, to find the explanation of things for which, in this state of existence, no explanation can be ever found; read not Scripture *presumptuously*, to lose yourself in subtle refinings, and find the interpretation of things which it is not given to man to understand; read not Scripture *polemically*, to find reasons to enable you to refute others; but read it in order to enter into the most confidential fellowship with God, and then you, too, will gather courage to say, nothing can separate *me* from the love of Christ—

‘Ever do I love to read
In this dear—this Sacred Book.’

“When such language issues from the heart of the Christian, then it is well with him. It is not sufficient that the Bible should be borne into every house and lie there unused, except when read aloud in a formal manner, on set occasions; but it must, as I have said, be there as the light of the soul, in which she perpetually basks. Such is the exhortation I have sought to address to you. I repeat it, then, Old Catholics are not forbidden to read the Bible. On the contrary, my admonition to you all is, Read again and again in the Sacred Book, sitting in humility and joy at the feet of the Lord, for He alone has the *words* of eternal life.”

Such a discourse shows progress in the Old Catholic movement in Germany of a very satisfactory kind. Two years ago, in the Constituent Congress in Munich, the Pope was recognized as a true Pope, and his followers as true bishops and priests. In this Congress, Professor Friedrich declared the Pope and bishops to have lost all legitimate power and jurisdiction, by virtue of heresy. Luther took a longer time after the publication of his Theses before arriving at such a stage as this. Two years of actual conflict have sufficed to convince the Old Catholics that, in the struggle with Rome, their master-weapon is the two-edged sword of Holy Scripture, whereas Luther took four years before arming himself with the New Testament in the vulgar tongue as an instrument of evangelisation and an implement of war. Attentive readers will probably detect remnants of the past period of the eloquent bishop's career in his masterly speech; but even those who knew his general sentiments on this subject, as it was my privilege to hear them in a conversation I had with him last year, could hardly have been prepared for such a glorious testimony as that which he bore last week in Constance.

THE BLIND RECEIVE THEIR SIGHT.

The following touching incident must, by its perusal, cause those who have “*eyes to see*” to be more deeply grateful for the blessing they enjoy, especially if they use the eyes which God has given them in reading His Holy Word. Should it not make us all more liberal in furnishing those who cannot *see* the sacred page, with the same page in *raised characters*, that they may *feel* and understand the meaning of the Word of Life? One of our Agents, in his recent Branch visitations, related this affecting event, much to the profit and interest of his audiences. At his request we very cheerfully insert the original *German*, as well as the *English* translation, as many desire to read it in the former (their native) language.