

Others joined them, until there was a large company. But soon they were persecuted, forbidden to pray to Jesus, or speak to others in his name. Some were beheaded, others put in prison, and all so cruelly treated that at last they were forced to defend themselves. They fought, and conquered; and from one place to another they have gone making war against their cruel oppressors, breaking down the Heathen temples, and casting the idols into the sea! They pray to God, many of them believe in Jesus, and they have printed,—the only portion of the Bible, we fear, that they have,—the first twenty-eight chapters of Genesis; and some other good books they have themselves written. It is expected they will soon turn the king from his throne, and, if God gives them light, destroy the idolatry of China, and procure her to be free!

You see how wonderful are the ways of God; how great things He can bring out of small beginnings! And all this we can trace back to the poor carpenter-boy, Robert—afterwards Dr.—Morrison.

Now, this is the reason why we wish, *at once*, to send so many Bibles to China. These people cannot succeed without the Bible—China will never be free without it—souls will never be saved. But send them this glorious Bible, this “*lamb and light*,” and the darkness of that land will flee, their dumb idols it “*will utterly abolish*,” and the voice of joy and rejoicing shall be heard in the tabernacles of the righteous. Is not this worth an effort?—a noble, vigorous effort?—Surely it is. And it is an effort in which all may join—the youngest boy or the oldest man. With a field so wide before us,—teeming with dark, imprisoned souls, seeking light and liberty,—they must have Heathen hearts, cold as the dumb idols, who would not pray, and give, and gather, to help on a work so glorious! Reader have you done all you can, or is it not possible to add a little more to what you have already done?—*English Pres. Mess.*

WALDENSES.

A LETTER FROM THE REV. J. P. REVEL, D. D.,
MODERATOR OF THE SYNOD OF THE WALDENSIAN CHURCH.

*La Tour, Vauds Valleys of Piedmont,
Italy, October 19th, 1853.*

Highly esteemed Sir, and dear Brother.—It was not my intention to wait so long before writing to you, but the accumulation of business has not left me the liberty to choose. I hope also to be able to give you some particulars concerning the public opening of the church at Turin, which was at first appointed for the 29th of September, then postponed to the 20th of this month, and now the director of the work informs me that the ceremony must be deferred, because the building is far from being finished within. These disappointments are painful, because a good number of friends from England, America, and other quarters, had made their arrangements to unite with us on that important and solemn occasion. I am, notwithstanding, happy to be able to say that this delay does not proceed from any difficulty raised on the part of the Government or of the people; on the contrary, we receive great encouragement from both these sources. The former, faithful to the spirit of the constitution, leaves all possible liberty to preach the gospel, and to disseminate the holy Scriptures among the Catholic population; and the latter show themselves every day better disposed to receive the good news of salvation. We who are engaged in the work see this, and we bless God: and the foreign brethren who have visited us, and could observe this, are struck with it. One of them wrote lately, “*In the kingdom of Sardinia, the state of mind is at this moment such that no one can form a conception of it, without being witness to it. It is the waking up from a long sleep; it is the dry bones begin-*

ning to move. Everywhere the people begin to reflect, to recognize their error, to long for and demand something better. The Scriptures are widely distributed, and their divine author blesses marvellously the reading of them, without the intervention of any human instrument:—whilst wherever the gospel is preached, it meets with a profoundly attentive audience, and many prove that it is the power of God unto their salvation. In the principal towns of the kingdom, Vauds pastors are established, as well for the directions as for the extension of the good work. The colporteurs have admirable success. In one place, during the first week, four hundred copies were disposed of. In another town, as soon as the colporteurs showed themselves, people ran up to obtain these books, and in a quarter of an hour fifteen copies were sold; the people, as they took them away, exclaimed, ‘*Here is the true Bible! Here is the truth, which has always been kept concealed from us! May we profit by it!*’”

During this summer's vacation, two of our Professors were sent on a missionary tour through Piedmont. The reports which they have made to us are very interesting, and communicate to us most important information. In one town they found a Canon who reads the Bible constantly, and who has already so well appreciated its instructions that he has given up his canonicate, which brought him two hundred and forty dollars a year; and his love for the truth in Christ prompts him already to make it known, though timidly, to others. In another place there is a priest who cannot any more read mass. He has procured a copy of the Bible for each of his nieces; he reads it and meditates upon it with the members of his household; and when at distant intervals they still go to the Roman church, they carry their Bibles, and read in them during the whole service, paying no attention to what the priest is saying or doing. In another place, the Syndic (or mayor) of the commune, received our evangelist with peculiar joy:—showed the Bible which he reads, and many religious tracts. He deplors the state of indifference and unbelief of the masses and of the nation, and added, with sadness, “*It is necessary, in order that your work may prosper amongst us, that the spirit of the people be changed; all is corrupt.*” Our itinerant missionaries have every where met with some well-disposed persons, and such as might serve as points of support for a work of evangelization. They have sold many copies of the Bible, and since they have returned, they are frequently receiving letters from priests, monks, and other members of the Roman church, asking them for information concerning the principle, of our church. You will doubtless join with me in admiring the fine field which Providence appears to design opening to the Professors and students of our Theological Seminary. The masters and their pupils will go during their summer vacation, to make missionary tours in the plains of Piedmont, to verify in practice the lessons of the winter, and to study together the best method of evangelizing our ignorant populations.

I have great satisfaction of being able to say to you that our work of evangelization makes surprising progress. We have now eleven missionaries in the work. We have received encouraging reports from them all. They are placed as follows:—one at *Pignerol*, with more than 300 hearers; two at *Turin*, more than 600 hearers; one at *Casale*, 25 to 30 persons; two at *Genes*, more than 400 hearers; one at *Chiavari* and *Facile*, 40 to 50 hearers; two at *Nice*, with an Italian congregation of 70 to 80, and a French one of 90 to 100 hearers; one at *Constantinople*, having a small congregation and a school, and one is about to leave for *Florence*.—Although the bigotry of the Grand Duke of Tuscany has reached a point of disgusting stupidity, I hope that our young brother will not suffer himself to be dismayed. With zeal and prudence, he

will be able to do something for those unfortunate brethren. * * * * *

We are at this moment embarrassed to pay all our eleven evangelists, who are labouring in the bosom of Catholic populations. In case you do not deem it imprudent, I would pray you to ask the Board of Foreign Missions, of which you are the Secretary, if they could appropriate to us five or six hundred dollars from your receipts for our Italian mission. If you consider my request as not well timed, I beg you very earnestly to make no mention of it, for nothing would so give me pain as to appear importunate in the eyes of the venerable friends who have become so dear to me, since I have tasted with delight the most precious testimonials of their cordial love. I desire that you will have the goodness to say to each one of them, as occasion shall serve, how happy we are, my wife and myself, to recall them to mind in our home conversation, with our friends, and in our prayers * * * and believe me, I am, dear sir, with respect and Christian love, your devoted brother in Christ,

J. P. REVEL, *Pastor and Moderator.*

MINISTER'S TREASURY.

Nothing less than earnestness can succeed in any cases of great difficulty; and the earnestness must of course be in proportion to the difficulty to be surmounted. Great obstacles cannot be overcome without intense application of the mind. How then can the work of the ministry be accomplished? Every view we can take of it replies, “*Only by earnestness.*” Every syllable of the apostle's language replies, “*Only by earnestness.*” Every survey we can take of human nature replies, “*Only by earnestness.*” Every recollection of our own experience, as well as every observation we can make of the experience of others, replies, “*Only by earnestness.*” This, this is what we want, and must have, if the ends of the gospel are ever to be extensively accomplished—*an earnest ministry.*

We have heard much of late about a *learned* ministry, and God forbid we should ever be afflicted by so great an evil as an unlearned one. We have been often reminded of the necessity of an *educated* ministry; and in this case, as in every other, men must be educated for their vocation; but then that education must be strictly appropriate and specific. We are very properly told from many quarters, we can do nothing without a *pious* ministry. Nothing can be more true, nor can any truth bearing upon this subject be more momentous; for of all the curses which God ever pours from the vials of his wrath upon a nation which he intends to scourge, there is not one so fearful as giving them up to an *unholy* ministry. I trust our churches will ever consider piety as the first and most essential qualification in their pastors, for which talents, genius, learning, and eloquence, would and could be no substitutes. It will be a dark and evil day when personal godliness shall be placed second to anything else in those who serve as the altar of God. But still there is something else wanted in addition to natural talent, to academic training, and even to the most fervent, evangelical piety, and that is, *intense devotedness.*—*James' Earnest Ministry.*

A RELIGION WITHOUT A HOLY SPIRIT.

A gentleman of intelligence, who was born of Catholic parents, and educated in the Catholic church, but left it recently for Protestantism (for some do leave the Catholic for the Protestant church—the conversions are not all to Romanism—but we, Protestants, don't make such a noise about it when we receive a convert; and I suppose the reason is, that it is really no wonder that a Catholic should become a Protestant—the only wonder is, that any should remain Catholic)—this gentleman said to his brother, who is still a Catholic, “*Why, brother, as long as I*