

Let me now try to answer the question : Is the work of a Protestant missionary calculated to disturb the "entente cordiale" which exists between Protestants and Roman Catholics and to foment strife ? It depends to a great extent upon the missionary ! The French people are naturally quiet and civil ; and will molest no one unless moved to it by their clergy. If a missionary proceed at once to denounce priests ; to brand the Pope as the Anti-Christ and stigmatize nuns as women of doubtful morality, he need not expect to be on good terms with the priests and with sincere Roman Catholics. I believe there is a better way which I will now try to illustrate.

Some time ago I met a Roman Catholic with whom I had a very pleasant chat about the weather, the crops, etc. Before leaving him, I said to him, "I am glad I have met you. While we are not of the same religious belief, the same blood courses through our veins, and there is no reason why we should not live happily side by side. Your religion teaches you to love me and mine enjoins the same duty upon me towards you." This led at once to the subject of religion. "What do you Protestants believe," he asked. "The Protestant and Roman Catholic Churches have a good many things in which they agree," I replied. "We both believe in the Unity of God : in the Trinity ; in the Divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ ; in the Inspiration of the Sacred Scriptures, etc." "Why," said he, "There is no difference between the two churches." "Yes," I answered, "there is a good deal of difference. We believe in only one Mediator, the Lord Jesus Christ ; you invoke Saints and Angels. We regard the Bible as the sole rule of faith and conduct ; for you tradition has as much authority as the Bible. You confess to a man, we confess to God, etc." When I left him he offered me his hand and said ; "This is the first time I ever conversed with a Protestant minister. I hope you will call to see us. I am glad to learn that Protestants are not the godless people, I believed them to be." He has treated me with the greatest respect ever since.

That the work of enlightening our French Roman Catholic fellow-subjects is fraught with difficulty, will be made apparent by the following incident : Many years ago a middle-aged man was hoeing in a field, when a Colporteur came upon him and began to speak to him. Mr. D. listened for two or three minutes and then said to him : "You need not say any more, sir, I know what kind of a man you are. Our priest told us a few weeks ago that 'Colporteurs' are men who have cloven feet and who are in league with the Evil One."