

REVIEW OF THE PAST YEAR.

One of the most important items in our record of the year 1870 was the war between France and Germany. At the beginning of last year the seat of this war was transferred from the provinces to Paris and its environs. After enduring all the horrors of a siege, an armistice, and finally a treaty of peace was concluded between the Emperor of Germany and the Government of which M. Thiers is still the head. Shorn of part of her territory, and drained of her resources by the payment of a large indemnity, France was still not permitted to enjoy the sweets of repose. A fierce contest between the Communists of the capital and the Assembly of Versailles inflicted untold horrors upon the people, and, although the side of responsible government finally prevailed, it has not been able to extinguish the embers of revolutionary spirit and national discontent. The manifest judgment of God upon the guilty city and land have evoked no public confession of sin nor expression of humiliation under the Almighty hand. Here and there a voice has been raised in Protestant churches, and from men like Father Hyacinth, acknowledging Divine chastisement and imploring mercy; but the mass of the people and their rulers have not yet learned the lesson taught by the text from which their great pulpit orator, Bossuet, preached his grandest sermon, on the occasion of the death of the unfortunate widow of our Charles the First, "Be wise now therefore O ye kings: be instructed ye judges of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son lest He be angry, and ye perish from the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little." Still the work of God has been seen in mercy as well as in judgment, and He whose footsteps are not known has prepared a way for His word, even with the fire and sword. The war has scattered the Bible over France as it never was spread abroad before.

In Germany the war has had the effect of severing more completely a large portion of the Bavarian Church from the Papal see. The Ultramontane party strove hard to gain the upper hand, and deprive the excommunicated Dollinger and his followers of their professorial and similar employments; but in this, as well as in other attempts, they have completely failed. The Old Catholic Convention, which was held in Munich in the month of September, showed the reality of the reform movement in the Church of Rome. Papal unity is broken up, and none can tell how many fragments it may yet fall into. God grant that those who are leaving the sinking ship may find their way safely to the shore. The Pope still takes up his abode at Rome, but the past year has been a very humiliating one for him. The eternal city is no longer under his jurisdiction, but owns the sway of the King whom he has anathematized with every curse that fiendish ingenuity could invent. Protestant churches have been erected within the walls, the first being that of the Rev. James Lewis, of the Free Church of Scotland, opened in the month of January. During the year Rosa Madiai and Dr. Revel have been called away by death.

Spain, long the most obedient servant of the Papacy, ruled over by the son of the excommunicated Victor Emanuel, has witnessed many triumphs for the Gospel during the past twelve months. The labors of missionaries and colporteurs have carried the truth to almost every corner of that benighted land, and Protestant churches are rising on every side. Roman Catholicism has not been idle, nor have the servants of God had it all their own way; but the contest, now that all political restrictions are