

Another correspondent writes, "I am often visited by Roman Catholics, who come to me for advice. Any books you can send me for distribution, and especially Prayer Books, in Italian, would, I assure you, be of great use, and with God's blessing, may prove beneficial to the souls of many. At this time many priests are applying for, and receive with much eagerness, our Church of England Prayer Book in Italian."

The following are extracts from a more recent letter. "I earnestly hope and trust that, after a while, the religious reformation will make progress here; but at present the unsettled state of the country is very greatly against it. The more quietly and silently the work is carried on, the greater the hope of ultimate success. and I am quite convinced that it would be injudicious and injurious to make any forward movement, or to draw public attention unnecessarily to Church reformation, until the present political excitement subsides in some degree, which we may hope will be the case by and by. Meantime many priests and laymen are anxiously bent upon the study of the Scriptures, and are also inquiring into the doctrines of the Church of England. Yesterday I was called upon by an Italian of the middle class, who came to converse with me on the difference of the Church of England from the tenets of the Roman Catholic and other churches. He was very glad indeed to have one of your Prayer Books. He is studying the Articles of the Church of England, and is to call upon me again in a few days."

—*Report of Foreign Translation Committee.*

SIGNS OF THE DECAY OF IDOLATRY.

There is not anywhere in the world a healthy superstition. Wherever the light has gone, if it has not dissipated, it has relieved the darkness. There is less cruelty than there used to be. Priests are less of princes and more of conjurors than they were a while ago. They are maintaining their power by slight of hand rather than by the potent influence which superstition used to have upon the mind. The religion of China if one can understand it at all, absurdly gay, as it has been well described, and as dead at heart as some Egyptian mummy, preserves, as long as its mummy life is continued to it, some remnant of its fantastic beauty: but chip the lid off, and let the air breathe upon it, and, like other mummies it crumbles into rottenness and dust. Then the gorgeous superstitions of India have on the confession of their votaries, ceased to aggress and can hardly hold their own. Mohammedan empire, and Mohammedan faith, twin-births of disaster, are ailing and shall die together. The Papacy dreams as yet insanely as ever it did. It is the most wonderful somnambulist that the world has ever known; but its reign is over. The city of its harlotry and its pride will speedily be overthrown; and soon—and may God hasten the time—shall there be a track made for the gospel chariot down the broadest street of the mystic Babylon. Everywhere in the ranks of the enemy, decrepitude and dismay!