

part laterally, though also to some extent from below upward. Even if the Pope and his counsellors were to recover his power, which is a most unlikely thing, they could hardly now crush out the truth. *Latus Deo.*

Thus, then, in the words of Milton's noble sonnet, the Lord is now avenging His slaughtered saints and sowing their martyred blood and ashes over all the Italian fields, and by and by we cannot doubt that hundred-fold harvest will be reaped for which the poet poured out his heart in fervent supplication.

F. S.—The following short statistical table (carefully drawn up by the Rev. Dr. G. Gray, of Rome) will be acceptable to our readers. It gives the increase of the membership of the chief evangelical missions in Italy from 1888 to 1893.

	1888.	1893.	
Waldensian Church.	4,074	4,737.	Gain, 663
Chiesa Libera.....	1,522	1,631.	" 109
Wesleyan Methodist.....	1,360	1,341.	Loss, 19
(American) Methodist			
Episcopal.....	930	965.	Gain, 45
Baptist churches.....	875	1,050.	" 175
Reformed Cath. church.	230	(in 1892).	

Mission to the Italian Soldiers.

One of the most interesting sights in modern Rome to a friend of Italian evangelization is the "Military Church," with which the name of Signor Cav. Capellini is so honorably associated. His work is indeed a unique one—what might seem to us work in a very unlikely field. Yet, during these twenty years past, large numbers of Italian soldiers have given undoubted evidence in changed lives that the Word of God had come to their hearts through this agency, and, as Italian soldiers, after their period of service is passed, become merged in the ranks of the civil population, Christians among them carry the good seed to many a distant place.

As might be expected, this work has excited peculiar hostility among the priests and Roman Catholic relatives of the converts. Several of the soldiers had received letters from their families, severely upbraiding them for having sold their souls to the devil, and threatening utterly to disown them if they did not send at once some priest's certificate to attest their return to the bosom of the true Church. In most cases it was evident that the letter was

the production of the curate of the village. One young fellow, a Sardinian, was in especial distress over the cruel and violent words his father had written him. Capellini had him into his study, and there, after laying his case before the Lord, they concocted together a reply, the effect of which surpassed all that their feeble faith had dared to hope; for in a few days from the father came a request for a Bible and Evangelical books.

As in former years, Signor Capellini made several evangelistic tours; one, this year, in Sicily. He also left Rome to follow the army during the "grand manœuvres." "I set out," he writes, "laden with tracts and portions of Scripture, and before returning had been able to give what seemed to be appropriate collocation to them all. It reminded me of the days in my soldier life in which it had fallen to my lot to carry round the camp the huge bread-basket, so heavy at starting, so light on returning, because of the hungry mouths that had been fed from it. Nor was it in the garrisons only that I found eager receivers of the Bread of Life, but in the railway carriages, at the inn table, in the *café*, and by the wayside, the Lord gave me utterance and boldness to speak of His Gospel, and to follow up and seal what had been said with the gift of a Testament or Gospel portion or suitable tract. One day a lieutenant elbowed his way through a circle of soldiers that, with outstretched hands, were pressing round me for books, and confronting me, demanded: 'What books are these you are distributing? Give me some to examine.' After opening one or two, he cried out: 'Nonsense! we want no priests here!' I replied, 'You are mistaken, sir; this is no propaganda of priests; there is nothing here but the simple Gospel.' 'Where is the difference?' he rejoined, 'Romish Church or Evangelical Church, it is all one.' 'That,' said I, 'at all events, is not true. A glance at any one of these books will show you that they are the condemnation of the very things of which you accuse the Church of Rome. Believe me, Signor Lieutenant, our object is to spread among these soldiers the Spirit of Christ, which is that of truth, righteousness, and love.' The officer was silent for a moment, then asked, 'Have you a Bible to give me?' 'Certainly,' I replied, handing him one. He opened it; then turning to the men, 'Take the books, if you please; they are good ones;' on which there was a general cry of 'One for me! One for me!' and in a few moments our stock had disappeared."—*A Voice from Italy.*