

it in the hands of God and of his friends. Should any of your readers be desirous of contributing to this mission, I shall be most happy to receive and transmit their donations or subscriptions; and I may add that there is not an evangelistic work in Europe better deserving of support. The number of sittings (chairs) at the twenty stations is about 4,000, and the aggregate number of attendants last year at the nineteen stations then open was 232,923, while the aggregate attendance at the children's meetings and Sunday-schools was over 33,000.

I am, &c., R. S. ASHTON,
Secretary of Evangelical Continental
Society,
March 31, 1877.

MEXICO.

Rev. Mr. Watkins, a successful and fearless missionary in Mexico, Monday evening described the social condition of that benighted and backward country to a respectable audience in Emmanuel Church. Rev. Mr. Stevenson occupied the chair, and several city clergymen were present.

It is safe to say that those present were deeply interested in his recital, yet that they were shocked at the terrible state of things in that so-called Republic. While paying a high compliment to the natural beauty and agricultural and mineral wealth of the country, he said, agriculture and commerce were neglected; what they cultivated most extensively was "revolutions." (Laughter.) Good roads were not plentiful and very unsafe; their sides were marked by crosses and heaps of stones, places where people had been killed. The robbers which infested the country were very frequently put to death though, as many as sixty being executed in two months to his knowledge.

Houses were of a primitive and simple construction, and were generally meanly furnished. Beans and tortilla, made with corn soaked in lime and water, then made into dough, beaten thin and baked, were staple dishes; the tortillas being tough served as spoons with which to eat the beans. An estimate of the farmers' progressive ideas could be form-

ed when they declined to use American ploughs. The Mexicans on the whole were naturally brave, patriotic and intelligent men, yet through the debasing influence of the Church of Rome they were in a wretched condition. The Indians had been labored amongst by the Roman Catholics for more than 200 years and there could be seen the fruits; men and women absolutely naked—soul and body. The Catholic Mexicans were almost to a man guilty of lying; stealing was common and morality at a low ebb. To give the audience some idea of the doctrines enunciated by the clergy he read extracts from their writings; in substance that the priest was equal to the Virgin Mary, because he in his way produced Jesus Christ, and superior in one sense as he produced Him as often as he liked; He was equal to Jesus Christ and was Christ; he was the Father of Christ, creator with Him; he was the very God and even greater than God in one sense and he was all this, though a criminal and a nullity as a man. Believing in these blasphemous assertions, the people absolutely obeyed the priest, and worshipped him as God. It was common for them to say about him, "There goes our Christ;" they reverentially kissed his hands, though knowing very often that he was an assassin. The most dreadful crimes were thus perpetrated under the sanction of the priests, or were extenuated and pardoned by them. One woman who killed three of her children was pardoned on giving the priest sixty turkeys! The best families in Mexico were destroyed by the priests, and they could give all possible latitude to the meaning of these words. The fathers and mothers dare not say a word against the wrongs perpetrated upon their children. He said the Bible was there deemed to be of the devil, and anti-Christian; the priests prohibited the use even of their own Douay Bible. He proceeded to graphically narrate the labors of the missionaries there, and the great danger experienced to life owing to the fanaticism and lawlessness which existed; the Mexicans were willing listeners to the Gospel, once they could be reached, and the converts were exceedingly steadfast. His own life had at different times been