

THE PAPACY IN ITALY.

The Papacy cannot keep her hands off of the public funds whenever she has an opportunity. We know something of her efforts in this direction in our own country, but it is in Italy where she has always made a gain of the State. As an instance, Italy has invested in benevolent institutions \$400,000,000, yet all of them are under the manipulation of the Pope and his priests. In many cases the reason for their continuance no longer exists, as in the case of the one at Palermo, which was erected from redeeming slaves from the hands of the Turks. No longer needed for its original intent, the priesthood has diverted the money to ecclesiastical purposes. As respects Rome, the priests have managed to secure to the Church nearly one-half of the whole revenue of the charitable institutions. The government, however, is not disposed to sanction any longer this perversion of valuable properties, and has set up claims to them for more useful ends and for the greater benefit of the people. Its action has started an agitation which is stirring the entire nation, and causing sides to be taken in a way that shows that Italy is making great progress in freeing herself from the bondage of ecclesiasticism.

WILLINGNESS TO DO LITTLE THINGS.

There are some Christians to whom the words of the servants of Naaman might well be applied. The Captain of the host of the King of Syria was very angry because the prophet Elisha had told him to do a thing that seemed so small as to be ridiculous and contemptible. He felt himself too great a man to do such a simple thing as to wash in the Jordan, but his servant wisely said: "My father, if the prophet had bid thee to do some great thing wouldst thou not have done it?" Certainly he would, and the servant could appropriately say to them: "How much rather wash and be clean"—that is, if you would do the great thing in obedience to the command of the prophet you certainly should be ever more willing to do the little thing he has commanded. This kind of treatment swept away the barrier of pride behind which the Syrian captain had placed himself, and we are told he did "according to the saying of the man of God" and was healed. Just as soon as Naaman was brought to a true spirit of obedience he was as willing to do the small thing as the great.

There are yet some people in the world who need to be brought to the same state of mind. Any man whom the Lord will use in

great things must be willing to do anything. There are a very few great things to be done in the Master's service, and a great many people would like to do them, while there are innumerable so called small things to be done, and comparatively few who are ready to undertake them. Some one has said: "Once in a while, when a great fortress is to be taken, God will bring out a great field-piece and rake all with the fiery hail of destruction. But common muskets do most of the hard fighting. It took only one Joshua, and the thousands of common troops under him, to drive down the walls of cities, and, under wrathful strokes, to make nations fly like sparks from the anvil. It only took one Luther for Germany, one Zwingli for Switzerland, one John Knox for Scotland, one Calvin for France, and one John Wesley for England. The most work is in the rank and file of life. No man need be idle. Put down love of place and pride. Look around, not above, for work. Remember the nobility of service is not in what men call prominent or great deeds, but in deeds, however humble and unknown, which the King has commanded. There is a blessing in the service and a reward awaiting that kind of work for Christ which is done so naturally as to be forgotten until He shall remind us by saying, "Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of the least of these, ye did it unto Me."—*Young Men's Era.*

FIFTEEN MINUTES A DAY.

An excellent amateur pianist was recently asked how she had managed to keep up her music. She was over forty, and had reared a large family. She had never been rich, and she had had more social burdens to carry than fall to the lot of most women.

"How have you ever done it?" reiterated her friend, who had long ago lost the musical skill which she had gained at an expense of years of study and thousands of dollars.

"I have done it," replied the other, "by practising fifteen minutes a day whenever I could not get more. Sometimes, for several months together, I have been able to practice two and three hours each day. Now and then I have taken a term of lessons, so as to keep up with the times, but, however busy and burdened I have been, unless actually ill in bed, I have practiced at least fifteen minutes every day. That has 'tided me over' from one period of leisure to another, until now I have still my one talent, at least as well improved as it ever was, with which to entertain my friends and amuse myself."

It is amazing to those who have tried it to see what can be accomplished by laying