

BURYING A PROTESTANT CHILD IN SPAIN.

A Protestant missionary laboring in Spain, thus relates one of his peculiar experiences :

"The father and mother of a boy who has been with us from the beginning of our school work, has a little sick child—the father, by trade a plasterer, for a long time out of work—doctor and medicines needed. The little one dies. A question and history now present themselves, viz: Is the child to have a coffin, or to be buried without? I propose to the grateful parent to pay for the coffin and the hearse, which has to go three miles—municipal laws do not allow willing hands to bear the body. While the parents are seated, talking with me over arrangements he tells me the following history :

"Three years ago I was roused about 2 o'clock in the morning by the cries and lamentations of a woman, I went to the window and heard her crying 'Is this the way you are going to bury my child?' The child was in a sack, with which two men were taking it away to be buried—a common practice with the poor, who cannot pay. If I had not seen the like, and worse too, in similar cases, I should have doubted the man's statement.

"While the hearse waits, we hold a little service among weeping friends. As the body is placed on the open hearse, and men in charge (who by this time knew me,) ask if they are to light the candles surrounding the body. I reply 'Never mind candles; the sun shines.' Friends, children, and a mixed crowd accompany. Why? Because there are no lighted candles. 'A Protestant! now and again escapes some one's lips. We go on, and, arriving at the cemetery, the old priest in waiting at the gates sees immediately who we are, and hastens into the vestry. There he sits, a grim old mercenary, with whom I have had several contests. The papers are presented this time not signed by me, for several reasons wishing the child to be buried according to the civil laws.

"The priest—'This won't do.'

"Why not?"

"Because, being a Protestant, I want to know where to put it."

"Who told you the child was Protestant or Jew? Have you not the signature of the judge of the peace? Do you wish me to return with the body to the civil governor?"

"This is enough to hasten his fingers over the register. He asks

"Where is the body to be put, into the fosse, or in a crypt?"

"The fosse, or ditch, is the place in the midst of the cemetery where the poor are buried; it is opened about 6 A. M., and all

bodies brought during the twenty four hours are kept in the dead-house, and brought out for burial together. The friends can be present if there are any; or if they have nerve, and can witness the sight, or abide the odor which awaits them, but which I care not even to describe. And not wishing the poor parents the additional wound, I ask the price of a crypt.

"If you wish to hire it for three years, it will be £2 5s., for one year 10s., after which the body will be taken out and cast into the fosse."

"I was about to hire for three years, when the weeping mother said 'No, no, Don George; your own child was put into the ground; why are we better than you?'"

"I paid the ten shillings, and we went to the place appointed, but not where we would have chosen. In a crypt over a little charnel-house, by the side of crypts marked with the words 'Atheist,' 'Free-thinker,' in the mortar covering, by the fingers of Romish priests, the body was put, while we did what the devil has never been able to hinder—offered praise and prayer. The living prisoners heard, and very soon the dead ones shall hear the voice of the Son of God, and come forth to honor, though some of their names have been dishonored by Rome, because of refusal to receive her unholy unction. This is Rome. May God in mercy fire the tongues of His servants to set before England's sons and daughters what this awful power is where it has its sway!"

Acadia Mission.

WE are happy to notice and record the continued success of Mr. Paradis in raising funds for the Grand Falls Church. This is good in its way, but much greater benefit will result from the personal acquaintance with the Missionary thus gained by the congregations visited. Mr. Paradis felt it to be necessary, however, to pause in his course, and retiring from collecting work for a few months, devote himself to the proper business of the mission. Mr. Paradis, therefore, returns immediately to that field described by Mr. Stuart in the notes of tour published in the present number. Farther and fuller details will appear in next number from Mr. Brouillette.

The following note shews that there are earnest and praying people in different por-