

The Protestant AND EVANGELICAL WITNESS.

"PROVE ALL THINGS: HOLD FAST THAT WHICH IS GOOD."—1 THESS. v. 21.

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Soon and for Ever.

"Her dying words to her husband were, 'Soon and for ever.'"

"My Letter."

"Soon—and for ever!"

"God grants our rest,
Though suffer us to die;
And dust unto dust;
Soon—and for ever."

"Our souls shall be
Made perfect, our glorious
Redeemer! In this,

When the sin and the sorrow
Of time shall be o'er;

In peace and its portage
Reconciled no more;

When life cannot fail,

And when death cannot sever;

Christians with Christ shall be;

Soon—and for ever."

Soon—and for ever

The breaking of day
Shall drive all the night-clouds
Of sorrow away.

Soon—and for ever

We'll see as we're seen,

And have the deep meaning
Of things that have been.

When flocks without us,
And flocks from within,
Shall weary no more

In the warfare of sin.

Where love and where fears,

And where death shall be;

Soon—and for ever.

Soon—and for ever

The work shall be done,

The warfare accomplished,

The victory won.

Soon—and for ever,

The soldier lay down

His sword for a harp,

And his cross for a crown.

Then dropt not in courage,

Despond not in fear,

A glorious to-morrow

Is brightening and near;

When—hallelujah!

Of such faithful endeavor—

Christians with Christ shall be;

Soon—and for ever.

The State of Italy.

The state of Italy at the present moment affords the most convincing evidence of the incurably villainous nature of the Papal system. It is now notorious it has been proclaimed by our own Lord Palmerston—it has been formally announced by Baron Riescoli, the Prime Minister of the King of Italy, that the Pope, whilst boldly as ever pretending to be the centre of religion in that unhappy country, has become the open patron of brigands and cut-throats, and affords uttermost shelter and encouragement to those who fly from Sardinian justice. It may literally be said of that which formerly laid claim to be the house of God, "Ye have made it a den of thieves." In his circular note, the Italian Premier states that the army of the late King, now guilty of all manner of atrocities, and supported by the Papal and Bourbon parties, was "with certain exceptions composed of elements carefully selected, scrupulously trained by the Jesuits and chaplains in the most abject and sordid idolatry of the King, and in the bloodiest superstition;" and he further states, that the former Neapolitan police was composed of "brigandages, who harassed and plundered the people on every plan." The following are the remarks of the Premier on the subject:

"It is the duty of Romeans that to be established as 'captains' in their country, and certain from all parts of Italy, and that they should be men who make soldiers of these, and send them forth to pillage his neighbors. It was thought a very discreditable practice even in those days. The Blues around shrunk very close, reluctantly with such a community, and the Italian, who always envied, is forced in consequence by the English to an exodus from the borders of Rome. People who insist that history is always repeating herself, may excuse themselves with the fidelity with which the earliest traditions of the capital of Italy are now preserved. The English, who are continually in the city of Rome, in the full line of Christianity, and the residue of ecclesiastical families, are all upon him, to do his bidding. It is doing a great disservice to the Church, involving the Parliament, stronger in the Church, involving the very sanctity of the Royal Family? These revelations of the atrocious nature of Popery in Italy, however, ought to teach us what an unchanged vice we are nursing in our own land, and at the public expense, and what return we must necessarily expect if that system shall ever again become dominant in Britain.—*Our Epis. Rec.*

The Church of England is represented by the Rev. Daniel Wilson, the Rev. Thomas H. Birks, Earl Roden, Sir C. Hardley, and others. The Wesleyan Conference, by the Rev. W. Arthur, and the Rev. W. M. Benting. Dr. Urwick, Dr. A. M. Brown, and the Rev. G. Smith, are present from the Congregational body. The Presbyterians have a strong representation in Dr. A. Thomson, Dr. Robson, Professor Loviner, and Dr. Wyke.

One sitting was given up to the discussion of Amer-

ican affairs, chiefly the present aspect of slavery. It

was opened by the Rev. Dr. Squire, of Geneva, N. Y., who took a strong Northern view of the question.

A paper, recently written by the Rev. Mr. Kerr, of Halifax, spoke out still more strongly against slavery. These sentiments gave great satisfaction.

While Christianity is most magnificently advancing in Britain, not a few members of the congregational body are seriously alarmed by the revolutions of their late

Year Book.

The statement given, show that Congregationalism is retrograding in England. The number of Congregational Churches in England is given at 1,000; the resignations and removals during the year at 105, and the astounding proportion of nearly 1 to 8. This is not the worst feature; for, on looking through the list of churches under the heading "Country and District Associations," 176 are marked vacant, or nearly 1 in

every 9.

Blending the resignation and removals with the vacancies, it is manifest that 1 in every 41 churches

throughout England were in an unsettled condition in 1860. Were these vacancies solely to follow on deaths or old age, a proper ratio would be, according to the present value of human life, about 45 or 46, and not 300 to 400.

These figures may well create consternation; for they stand on a conservative basis with a state of peace. Can there be a more satisfactory condition of affairs in each disturbed and destitute location, or among such evi-

dently puerile and unspiritual elements? Can there be

such spiritual life which is necessary for the propagation

which they should be making on the mass of spiritual

destitution around them? The more thoughtful among the Independents are taking these things to heart, and are beginning to conclude that if there were less pol-

icy there would be more spiritual prosperity.

Scottish Presbyterians are determined to do something on a grand scale for the evangelization of Eng-

land. Three large congregations have already been gathered in London itself since the movement began, about two years ago. Only twelve months have elapsed since Dr. Edmond began to preach in Myddleton Hall, hired for the purpose, and now the spacious building is completely filled with members and adherents. The Rev. King has been preaching in another part of London, and a beautiful new church is also being erected for the congregation he has drawn to him.

Now comes the sending out of her best ministers to begin their active work of this Presbyterian movement in London. Dr. Edmond King, and Dr. Macfarlane

cannot be give new character and prestige to Presby-

terianism in this country. Blairstown Chapel, too,

where Dr. Fletcher preached for so many years, is about to receive as his successor the Rev. A. Wallace of Glasgow.

The Minutes of the Wesleyan Conference recently

held, form a voluminous volume of 312 pages, and make a good shewing.

The 32 districts of British Methodism now contain 484 circuits, which is 8 more than last year, and 1,146 itinerant ministers (besides 177 superannuates,) which is an increase of 20.

London has three of the new circuits, making its num-

ber of home missionaries throughout the kingdom

33 in 1860, and 44 in 1861.

Looking at the foreign missions, all will be glad to

see an increase on the Continent of Europe.

In Wurtemberg this was to be expected from the accou-

tage of pietistic persecutions which have occurred since

the death of King Oskar.

The 1861 report of the Foreign Missions Committee

states that the number of converts made in 1860

was 33,000, and 44 in 1861.

Thus, in ten years, this protest Christian Juggernaut

has had in its death-dealing wheel

450,000 persons absolutely killed.

151,000 " hopelessly injured.

100,000 " perished.

1,200,000 " widowed and orphanized.

1,000,000 persons I and at a money cost of

\$1,210,000,000.

In one Nation—One million and nine hundred

and thirty thousand persons I and at a known money cost

of one billion and two hundred and ten million dollars

I and yet, how much more must yet be left

to the most enormous I and Political (?) rats, about

sustaining the revenue I and when the only sure remedy

suggested—Prohibition!

Our Parents.

Not long since as I took my seat in the car for a day's ride, I observed, seated opposite to me an elderly lady and middle-aged gentleman, who, I inferred from their dress, were travelling a day or two.

It was a very early hour in the morning, and the lady apparently was sleeping.

We rode in silence for some time, when the lady awoke, and I heard the gentleman address her as mother.

His dignified, unbroken manner, and the tender, deferential tone of his voice, at once drew my attention to them, and having no company, my eyes and my thoughts were on them.

All the tender care which a mother could bestow

on an infant child, were given by that son to his moth-

er. The slightest movement on her part to adjust her

furs, or sleek, over shoe, or any change of position,

called forth his ready hand in assistance, and the inquiries "Are you comfortable? Do you feel tired? Lay your head on my shoulder, and rest yourself."

At noon the car stopped for the passengers to obtain refreshments. It was snowing too fast for the mother to go out of the car, and the son brought her a cup of coffee.

"Is it just right, mother?" he enquired as she tasted it.

"A little more cream would make it better; it is, however, very good as it is," was her reply.

"Let me get you some more."

"No, my son, it will make you too much trouble;

it is very good as it is."

He went out and soon returned with the cream, and poured a little into the coffee; and then a little more, until it was "just right." He then sat down by her side, and I heard him say, in the same low tone of voice that at first attracted my attention, "I am glad, mother, that I can do anything to make you comfortable; it is a pleasure to me."

"I thank you my son," she replied in the same spirit and tone of voice that of her son.

Beautiful, thought I, as I quietly watched them and marveled at their mutual love and confidence.

It is not of me that I am speaking, but of the

mother of the Catholic Church. There is

not one of these accomplishments to be named

that does not call for the admiration of

the whole world.

Our daily journals are teeming with letters from

gentlemen contrasting the prevailing of the Evangelical

willows, now in evidence, with the melancholy

and desolate, like humanity shudders, when we can see the

influence of the Papal system.

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