



OUR NEW MANSE AT SAN GERMAN.

"The house is so far back from the street."
 "They have the queerest temple you ever saw. The entrance is at the bell tower."

So the year passed with enough of the ridiculous along with the serious and cutting, to make life buoyant. Suffice it to say that the buildings are completed and among those who did the most talking against the concrete blocks are some who have changed. The priests of the cathedral have made one house and will soon build two more out of "sand and cement." A number of other buildings are being constructed of the same material and a factory of concrete blocks is established. Men thank the "fool Protestant" for the new industry he has given them. A church member said,

"If they would only accept Christ as readily as they do this manner of building!"

A great victory for our church is this new building. It has advertised us. It is

the talk of the whole district. Men are looking on the evangelical faith with more respect. If those who gave the money for the San German church could only know the gratitude of the people and their joy in having a church!

"Good morning!" said an old man of stalwart frame and high forehead as he came to the door the other day. "Do you sing here to-day?" (pointing toward the church).

"No," I replied, "not till to-night."

His face fell.

"I came from that mountain side over there. The road is so bad no one can pass after dark. Will you sing here Sunday night?"

"Yes."

"Good! Then I shall come Sunday and spend the night here so I can go to service. We are in the darkness up where I live. I am searching for light and I wish to hear what you have to say here."

Another—a laic; of high standing in the Catholic Church who has ~~seen~~ the evils practiced therein—said to us one evening as we were returning from a cottage prayer meeting.

"Two years ago I was marching in this very street in a procession with the body of Christ. Now I am marching again with Him, but 'in spirit and in truth.'"

Her voice rang out with joy as she spoke. The "body of Christ" which she mentioned is a life-sized figure of the dead Christ in a glass coffin with which the priest and others parade the town on Friday ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~pas-~~ ~~ter~~ ~~week~~.

Yet it is hard for them to break from their old ways. Not long ago a wealthy man who is now studying the Bible said to me as he looked toward his two tall sons,

"Get the young people into your Church and let us old ones go. We are too hard to change. Now all the men in town know that you people have the true religion—the religion of Christ. But it is like this: if I

had an old doctor in my family who has known all my family for years; and if there should come into the town a young doctor whom everyone knew to be a better doctor, it would be hard for me to say to the old doctor, 'You are not needed any more.' So it is with that Church. I know your Church is better, but I cannot say to the old Church, 'You are not wanted.' Get the young people."

There is truth in that. The young people are more open to receive new teaching from the Bible. We have a family of children in our church. They are the best members we have. They are always at service, even though it means an hour's hard walk to reach the place. They know the catechism well. Just now they are planning the marriage of their father and mother. As in all Catholic countries, so here, many are living without legal marriage because of the rigid exaction of the priesthood. And these children, with the consent of their parents, are making ready the marriage feast of their own father and mother!