

manifestation of the increasing catholicity of the Presbyterian Church, and the essential unity of all branches of the widely scattered Presbyterian family. The spirit of union is extending to other branches of the Church of Christ, and within the present year our Methodist brethren are to meet in General Council in London. Our parent churches have had their difficulties during the year; but in the face of all these, their progress in beneficent aggression upon a world lying in sin has been manifest. They have also shewn, in the most tangible form, their readiness to co-operate with our own Church in her evangelistic enterprises. The struggle in the Church of England, between ritualism and evangelism, has been as bitter as it has been fruitless. In France there has been, during the year, a remarkable movement in the direction of an evangelical reformation, whole villages in many instances giving up their connection with the Church of Rome. The Ancient Reformed Church, however, is in sore trouble and perplexity through the power of the rationalists in the ministry and membership of the Church. There they are, and they cannot apparently be excinded. The Government of France has busied itself with the suppression of certain religious orders; but the truth is that the spirit of Jesuitism dominates the whole Roman Catholic clergy in France, and a spirit cannot be banished by the power of the civil magistrate. It is noteworthy that in Belgium more than half the population have been, during the past year, excommunicated by the Roman ecclesiastics, on account of their attendance upon common schools. The year is not marked by any event of outstanding importance in Germany or any of the European nations—unless, indeed, we note the edition of the New Testament published in Rome, with the Papal approval, by Father Curci,—and the vehement reassertion by the Pope of his claim to a temporal sovereignty.

But the year is over with its opportunities of well doing,—with all its harvests of plenty, and all its famine-cries,—its songs of gladness and its wailings of distress. What has it borne to the throne of God relating to you, reader? If you are dissatisfied with last year, then ask for strength to live a nobler, a purer, a more beneficent life in 1881. Be a better parent or child; a better brother or sister; a better minister, elder, or ordinary member of the Church; a better Sabbath-school teacher or scholar; more faithful in all things; more deeply impressed with the unspeakable importance of time, and the duty of spending it in the service of God.

Home Mission Fund, 1880-81.

CONVENER'S CIRCULAR.

THE following Circular has been sent to all the ministers in the Western Section of the Church:—As the time approaches when contributions for the various Schemes of the Church are appropriated, and forwarded to the Treasurer, a brief statement of the work under the care of the Committee, and the present condition of the Fund, may be of use in presenting its claims to your congregation. From the Report submitted to last General Assembly, we find that there are under the care of, and aided by the Committee, 404 Mission Stations, and 105 Supplemented Congregations, representing 8,858 families, 11,128 communicants, and a Sabbath attendance of 28,122. These stations and congregations raise for the support of ordinances \$52,488 (independent of the aid given by the Committee), and in almost every case, contribute to the different schemes of the Church. As in many of the newly opened stations in the North-west, it is impossible to procure full statistics at once, these numbers may be regarded as somewhat below, rather than above, the facts of the case. The generous response on the part of the Church last year, gives the Committee good grounds for hope that similar liberality will characterize the present. It is, however, to be borne in mind, that of the \$46,869 raised last year for Home Missions, there were special contributions amounting to \$6,396, and grants from British Churches, amounting to \$2,905. Deducting these sums from the gross revenue, leaves \$36,567 as the contributions of the different Presbyteries. Unless a similar amount is aimed at this year, the Committee will not be able to discharge their obligations.

After a very careful revision of the grants, the Committee, at its recent meeting in October, adopted the following resolution:

"The General Assembly having enjoined the Home Mission Committee to equalize the revenue and expenditure of the Fund each year, the Committee, after careful consideration of the claims of the work, find that \$3,410,000 is the largest sum with which the work can be efficiently carried on for the current year. They have made grants and assumed responsibilities to this extent, in the confident hope that the required amount will be obtained, and they earnestly appeal to the Presbyteries and Sessions of the Church to use all diligence to secure liberal contributions, to enable the Committee to meet their liabilities and end the year free from debt."

The Committee feel assured that all that is needed to secure liberal contributions to this Fund, is a plain statement of the great work in which the Church is engaged, and the increasing demands and extent of the field. In proportion as we fail in the work of Home Missions, all other schemes of the Church must necessarily suffer, whereas