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## ANOTHER NEW YEAR.

New year has come again. How quickly the story repeats. The years grow old, pass away, and new ones come. But the old never return. They bear away the record that has been written on them of good or ill, not like the scape goat into the wilderness to be lost and forgotten, but to take their place beside others gone before them, there to wait till the roll of years completes, to pass under review, and, if worthy, to receive "well done" from Him who gave them. The years do not return. Each year past is a year less to live and work, a year more for which to give account.

This New Year is a notable one, the most notable that the world has seen since the first year of the Christian era, for it not only closes a century as eighteen other years of our era have done, but it closes the most remarkable century in the world's history. Never century saw such changes, such progress, as this one has seen. All the wonders of steam and electricity belong to this century, with so much that follows in their train. The work of these two great magicians alone has transformed the world in the century now closing.

Or take the changes along another line, that of uplifting the world to a better life. In the beginning of the century there were eight Foreign Missionary Societies in the world with one hundred and fifty ordained foreign missionaries, but no ordained native missionaries, no unmarried women as missionaries. Now there are three hundred and sixty-seven Foreign Missionary Societies, six thousand six hundred ordained foreign missionaries, and four thousand three hundred missionaries' wives a grand unpaid host of workers. There are four thousand unmarried women as foreign missionaries. There are four thousand two hundred ordained native missionaries, and sixty-eight thousand native teachers and assistants. There are a million and a half of communicants in

Foreign Mission Fields, or seven times as many as in the Presbyterian Church in Canada, while the giving to Foreign Missionary Societies for the carrying on of this great work has arisen during the century from fifty thousand to fifteen millions of dollars.

Take the world by continents and what a change. In Europe a century ago was intolerance and despotism both civil and ecclesiastical. Now the power of the latter is broken and that of the former is being continually limited by the progress of popular rights.

Asia, with its countless peoples, was a continent of cruelest tyranny and idolatry largely sealed to the outside world. Now the missionary, and his aides, the railway and telegraph, with all that these mean, have penetrated its nearly every country.

Africa, a century ago, except some small sections of its coast, was heathen and barbarian, little known of it but its shape. Now, explored through its length and breadth, dotted with mission stations, steamships ploughing its rivers and lakes in the far interior, the Cape to Cairo railway far advanced, the century long slave trade crushed out by Britain's strong right arm, and "Africa's open sore" at last healed, the Dark Continent is moving with rapid strides towards the light.

South America has made the least advance of any continent, but even there the steady, if slow, progress is toward a better civilization, while the Christian missionary, ever the pioneer in the uplifting of the world, has visited its towns and villages and tracked its lonely steppes and forests with his message of life.

North America, our own Continent! What shall we say of its progress? A century ago a strip of settlement along the Atlantic coast, had, as thirteen states, been twenty-four years at nation building; while wilderness, prairie, and mountain, the home of the savage, man and beast, stretched far to the setting sun.