

judgment. He attended the meetings of the General Assembly till health failed. Dr. MacGregor's death will be deeply felt by our foreign missionaries in whose welfare and prosperity he always felt the warmest interest. They have looked up to him as to a kind and wise father. The same is largely true regarding our home missionaries in so far as they came within the sphere of Dr. MacGregor's influence. His removal has made a blank which cannot soon be filled : which in many cases never will be filled.

A Retrospect.

ALTHOUGH the old year is rapidly receding, it will not be amiss to recall a few of the events that have marked its history. The Presbyterian churches the world over have been happily exempt from any serious disaster. No strife or feud has added to the cleavages of the past ; but on the other hand old wounds have been healed, and blessed fruit is gathered in places that were wont to be mere battle-fields of contending parties. Thank God for peace.—a peace which springs not from the torpor of spiritual death or slumber, but from the love of God shed abroad in the heart, and the fear of God controlling the operations of conscience. The Presbyterian churches of Australia have formed a federal union, and organized a Federal General Assembly, thus presenting to the world outward and visible signs of the inward and spiritual grace of brotherly love. The Presbyterians of Wales, heretofore unorganized and in danger of being gradually devoured, have drawn sensibly nearer the Presbyterian Church of England, and are rapidly learning their rights and privileges. They are claiming from too unfriendly landlords, sites for churches, and their claims are being met in a more friendly spirit than was expected. Very hopeful is the union movement among the Presbyterians of Italy,—the long-persecuted witnessing church of the Waldensian valleys on the one hand, and the young aggressive Free Church on the other. Slowly, perhaps too slowly, these bodies are extending their operations. But when we remember what Italy was twenty-five years ago,

and when we see what she is to-day, may we not well exclaim : "This is the Lord's doing!" We are warranted in saying that during the past year there have been unusually large accessions to the membership of our congregations. It was a year of spiritual growth as well as of numerical advance.

Foreign mission work has been carried on by all the churches with increasing zeal and success. The war forced by France on China was a grievous hindrance for a time, but since peace was restored, progress has been more than usually rapid : and, upon the whole, Protestant missions have suffered less than might have been anticipated. The propaganda at Rome state that the losses to Roman Catholic missions have been very great in Cochin China, in consequence of the French war, 24,000 Christians having been massacred. These included nine missionaries, seven native priests, 60 catechists, and 270 members of religious orders ; 225 churches were burned, 17 orphan asylums and 10 convents were destroyed. One of the memorable events of the year was the celebration of its seventy-fifth anniversary by the American Board of Foreign missions. In Siam, where our sister the Presbyterian Church of the United States has an influential mission, there are symptoms of the most hopeful character, indicating the probable conversion ere long of the whole people. The government favours Christianity, and in countries like Siam the influence of the government is very great. Not the least important event of the year in relation to missions was the overthrow of King Thebaw, the bigoted and cruel Burmese monarch. Happily the country is annexed to the British Empire, and is thus open to the missionaries of the cross. Access in this direction will be obtained to vast districts of China hitherto secluded from European and Christian influences.

Christians in the United States have set up excellent schools and well-equipped colleges in Constantinople, Beyrout, and several other centres of interest and influence in the Turkish empire. These institutions diffuse the blessings of a thoroughly Christian education. We see the result already in Bulgaria, where the people, under the leadership mainly of men taught by the American missionaries, have claimed the rights of freemen and discharged the duties