

Old Catholic movement bids fair to assume formidable proportions. Bible circulation has been pushed with unprecedented vigor during the year.—Good news come from heathen lands. Japan has leaped into the race of modern progress, and is earnestly striving for excellence. China is more widely accessible than hitherto. From mission stations generally, we hear of progress, slow, perhaps, but sure. The position of the Church of England excites universal anxiety among Protestants. The Bennett judgment has shown that the grossest peculiarities and superstitions of Rome are tolerated in the English Church!

Last year was the Tercentenary of the awful massacre of St. Bartholomew, and of the death of John Knox, and of the organization of Presbyterianism in England. These events were duly commemorated throughout the Presbyterian world.

Coming to our own church, we can sing of judgment and mercy. We see new congregations formed and old ones strengthened. We hail with joy valuable additions to the ranks of the ministry; and we have to sorrow over the death of one valued venerable brother, and the laying aside of others through ill-health. One additional missionary, and his wife, have been sent to the foreign field. We may be sure that every passing year will devolve more work upon us in the home as well as the foreign fields. God is giving us the means and the opportunity of working for Him. Let us ask grace to know the day of our merciful visitation.

### THE USE OF THE PROMISES.

To use God's promises aright, several things are necessary. They should be personally found. They are in the Bible, like healing herbs in the garden. We must search for them and find them, ere we can get benefit from their healing virtues. It is not enough that we know where they are, we must get them in our hand. Coal in the seam will not feed our fire. It must be dug out and put on the

grate. Gold in the quartz vein will not make coin. It must be crushed, smelted and go through the mint before it is current money. Coins lying somewhere in the house will not pay our debts. They must be produced. It is so with the promises. We must dig for them in the inexhaustible mines of Bible truth. We should be able to produce the promises just as they are needed, instead of being able only to point to the bank where they are issued. Many of the promises are like the torches which men sometimes use in salmon fishing. The materials of which they can be made are all in the Bible, but we require to collect them and construct the torch; and having lit it at the altar of faithfulness, the more vigorously we take it by our exertions and our prayers, the more brightly it will burn.

The promises should be personally appropriated. They are like ready-made garments, which can only be properly used by those whom they fit. We should take the promises that suit our circumstances or condition. They are like medical prescriptions for various diseases. We require to take the prescription that suits our case. It will not do for a man to drink anything that is in the drug store. By so doing, he would be as likely to poison as cure himself. So men may mistake and injure themselves in appropriating Bible promises. Here is a soothing tonic for repentant, contrite sinners: "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin." For the wilful rebellions and unrepentant to lay hold on such a promise, is to stupify his conscience and poison his soul. Here is a lamp to enlighten the path of duty. "Lo I am with you alway, even to the end of the world." The man who seizes it to rush into forbidden paths, will turn it into a brand that will either burn or suffocate him. Here is a cheque on the bank of heaven for the sincere, earnest suppliant: "Ask and ye shall receive." The mere formalist who presents it is liable to detection and punishment, as a forger or imposter. Here is a pier to which the lover of God can safely moor his ship in the darkest night, and during the fiercest