

expiration of the two years stipulated for in the treaty. 1867 will therefore in all probability witness the overthrow of the temporal power of the Pope.

We might profitably review the progress of Christ's kingdom in heathen and papal lands—the disasters that have been experienced, the triumphs that have been gained, the new points of influence that have been seized, the fresh channels that have been opened up for the truth and the old obstructions that have been removed—and the slow sure progress of the Gospel; but space forbids. The experience of the past teaches us to enter on the New Year with fear and trembling and to place all our trust in Him who holds the mysterious, shadowy, illimitable FUTURE, in His hand.

Harp, awake! tell out the story
Of our love and joy and praise;
Lute, awake! awake our glory!
Join a thankful song to raise!
Join we, brethren faithful-hearted,
Lift the solemn voice again
O'er another year departed
Of our three score years and ten!

Lo! a theme for deepest sadness
In ourselves by sin defiled;
Lo! a theme of holiest gladness
In our Father reconciled!
In the dust we bend before Thee,
Lord of sinless hosts above;
Yet in lowliest joy adore Thee
God of mercy, grace and love!

Gracious Saviour! Thou hast lengthened
And hast blessed our mortal span,
And in our weak hearts hast strengthened
What Thy grace alone began!
Still when danger shall betide us
Be Thy warning whisper heard;
Keep us at Thy feet and guide us
By Thy Spirit and Thy Word!

Let Thy favour and Thy blessing
Crown the year we now begin;
Let us all, Thy grace possessing,
Grow in grace and vanquish sin.
Storms are round us, hearts are quailing,
Signs in heaven and earth and sea;
But when heaven and earth were failing,
Saviour! we will trust in Thee!

FACTS REGARDING THE NEW HEBRIDES MISSION.

The Synod of the Presbyterian Church met at Pictou in 1843; and on the 14th July of that year the venerable Dr. Keir supported an overture "On the propriety of maintaining a Mission abroad." The overture was "sent down to the several Presbyteries for consideration, with instructions to report thereon to the Synod at its next meeting." This we believe was the first movement in this country towards the establishment of a Foreign Mission. In the following year—1844—the Synod met at the same place, and in its Minutes we find that one Presbytery was strongly in favour of undertaking a Mission, another was opposed to the step, and the third was desirous first to find out whether the Church was prepared to sustain such mission. These reports of Presbyteries being before the Synod, the Minute proceeds:—

"Read also a deeply interesting memorial from the Presbytery of PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND on the same subject. Whereupon it was moved that the Overture be adopted and carried into effect as far as practicable, and that a Committee or Board of Foreign Missions be appointed for this purpose, and that the Memorial just now read be published for the information of the people.

"It was moved in amendment, That this Synod feeling that in present circumstances they are not prepared to embark in the Foreign Mission enterprise, resolve to enjoin on the congregations under their inspection to make an effort on behalf of said Missions consistently with other claims; and farther, that in order to render present efforts available, the Synod will connect itself with the ——— Society through which their contributions may flow till they feel themselves able to embark in the cause by sending forth a Missionary of their own." The motion was carried by a majority of six, the vote being twenty to fourteen. The Presbytery of Prince Edward Island (of which the Rev. JOHN GEDDIE was then a member) with the Rev. Messrs Bayne, Waddell, M'Curdy and Baxter were appointed a "Board of Foreign Missions" for the purpose of carrying the above motion into