

any other way. It is quite safe to affirm that every member of the league has ever since been an enthusiastic advocate of the German Inner Mission.

ITS NAME.

The designation *Inner Mission* may perhaps be best translated "Domestic Mission," i. e., the whole of the work of this many-sided system is carried on *among Germans*, either within or beyond the Fatherland. The enterprise originated in the conviction that, after all, the foreign field is not the only region that needs the Gospel, and the accompanying results of the Gospel. Unfortunately it was all too plain that there were also multitudes of heathen at home: that these home-heathen were worse in their perversity, and far harder to convert from the error of their ways, than were those who had never heard the message of salvation through a risen Saviour; and that inasmuch as *"it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them," the church must see to it that these wayward ones be rescued and inspired (or re-inspired) with a heavenly hope. Still, as will become manifest in a few moments, *Inner Mission* work is not simply Home Mission work, in the ordinary acceptance of that phrase. Its outlook is wider, and it is wider a hundredfold in its comprehensive reach.

ITS SCOPE.

The range of activities covered by the Inner Mission to-day is not easily defined. It seems to have thought of everything, and to have made some competent provision for everything, that has to do with the welfare of body, mind and soul. But it was not always so. Like many another great undertaking, it was quite humble in its origin. Let us acquaint ourselves with its very modest beginning.

The Inner Mission was founded in 1848. The particular year was a momentous one, even in an era that was signally momentous. In France, Louis Philippe had just abdicated the throne,

*2 Peter ii, 21.