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A Year of Prayer.

EIGHTEEN hundred and eighty seven has been ushered in with a week of united prayer throughout evangelical Christendom. During that week, missionaries in lonely fields in our own great North-West, or in far away islands of the Pacific, or among the millions of India and China, or amid perils from savages in Central Africa, would all feel that millions joined with them in the same prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks to the Lord of all. The one great and precious gift of the Holy Spirit was desired by all. A vast and speedy ingathering of souls was eagerly prayed for by all. It was among foreign missionaries that the "week of prayer" as now observed had its origin, and we doubt not it has been an unspeakable blessing to lonely pioneers in heathendom, as well as to very many of our congregations in Christian lands.

It is well to pray in concert for one week. God's blessing crowns such exercises of Christian faith and love. It will be better still to make this a "Year of Prayer." Of course, prayer is the Christian's vital breath. He does not, he cannot live without it. But we need more of it, and we need union in prayer; for every one of the

objects that we intercede for, will become dearer and still dearer to our hearts, and we shall become more energetic and self sacrificing in their promotion. We notice that the Scottish Churches invite their people from week to week, all the year through, to pray for certain objects of outstanding importance. We may well follow their example. As we have stated collections for the Schemes of the Church, we might profitably have stated periods of prayer for the same. For example:—What could be more appropriate than special and united prayer over the whole Church for our Colleges? Then for our Missions in Manitoba and the North-West; then for our French Evangelization work; our New Hebrides Mission; our Trinidad Mission; our Mission in Formosa, our Mission in India; our Home Missions; our Augmentation Fund, &c. ? The whole work of our Church might thus be brought still closer to our hearts and our every-day life. The circling year would be brief enough to embrace all the themes for our prayers.

An Obvious Lesson.

WITH what consuming zeal—with what glowing earnestness, our political parties prosecute their aims! Raging storms