

people share with us the heritage given to the world by the penetrating genius, the mighty faith and the God-sustained, indomitable perseverance of Columbus.

It is constituted a mission field by the fact that its predominant religious thought and life are determined by a perverted and corrupted form of the Christian faith, while in the heart of the continent there still remains the darkness of paganism, unilluminated by a single ray of the Light of the World. This field, therefore, invites to each of two chief forms of mission work. On the one hand it calls for the continuance among peoples of Latin origin of the work of the Reformation, which in the sixteenth century won such mighty victories among the nations of Central and Northern Europe, while it was so strangely hindered in its progress and finally completely paralyzed among the Latin peoples of Southern Europe. On the other hand, it invites to the first evangelization of pagan tribes who have for centuries resisted the efforts of Roman Catholic missionaries, and have as yet never had the offer of a pure Gospel teaching held out to them. A continent with 23,000,000 of Spanish and Portuguese mixed races, with 3,000,000 of negro freedmen, and 4,000,000 of pagan Indians surely offers a vast field for evangelization.

It is a continent of American republics, with ten nations who have modelled their civil institutions after those of the United States of North America, yet are lacking in that sense of individual responsibility to God and regard for His revealed Word which are the only sure ground for truly republican institutions. If we are to maintain American institutions for all America, we must give the Bible and the faith of the Bible to South America.

This continent, considered as a mission field, has been left to the Christian churches of North America. The great missionary societies of Great Britain and continental Europe have relegated to us the evangelization of this Western world.

By a marvellous historic development under the guidance of that Providence which administers the government of this world with a view to its redemption, this whole continent has been opened to the proclamation of the Gospel. With the single exception of Ecuador, there are everywhere to be found religious toleration founded upon legal enactment, or upon a well-defined and intelligent public conviction, a strong sentiment among influential men in favor of the prosecution of our evangelical work, hearts prepared to receive the message and embrace the truth, and fruits already gathered which are God's seal of approval upon the work already done and His call to the wide-open doors which no man can shut.

Under the Southern Cross.

MISSIONS IN AUSTRALIA.

BY REV. ROBERT STEEL, D.D., NEW SOUTH WALES.

At the Federal Assembly of the Presbyterian Churches of Australia and Tasmania, held at Adelaide, in September, some interesting particulars were given regarding the missions in Australia. These embrace Chinese, the aborigines, and the Kanakas or Polynesians. Regarding the latter there are some striking facts. There are now 9000 in Queensland. Several missionaries are working among them. The Presbyterian missionary is at Walkertown, in a centre of 16 plantations. He has 1800 under instruction, 233 of whom have been baptized. A great change for the better has resulted from his labors. These natives are now learning habits of thrift, and they have \$100,000 in the savings banks.

The aboriginal mission in Northern Queensland is making progress. The government Resident at Thursday Island lately visited the States, and expressed a hope that many more of such might be established and a mission vessel secured.