

disruption of the Church seems to impend. The "Reformed" in different sections of Germany appear to be slowly winning a somewhat increased measure of self-government. From Switzerland we hear of energetic evangelistic efforts attended with great success. Good news come to us regarding the Waldenses who are gradually—slowly and surely—making their influence felt throughout Italy.

If we look far away to the antipodes, we can note with unmingled pleasure the rapid growth, quite noticeable from year to year, of our sister churches in Australia and New Zealand. Young, healthy, vigorous, these branches of the far-spreading family already claim a most respectable representation in the Pan-Presbyterian Council.

To the whole branches of our family in the United States, the past year has been peculiarly interesting and eventful. Our brethren there have been engaged in recalling the story of a hundred years, noting the wonders and mercies of the past, "taking stock" of the present, and preparing for the future. The enmity between North and South has been, in part at least, overcome, and the earlier steps towards union have been taken.

Looking at our own Church, we may well thank God and take courage. We have passed the first year of our existence as a united Church, and none of the predicted evils have befallen us, while the tokens of Divine care and blessing have been very abundant. Our Church rests unshaken on the Rock, Christ Jesus; and many a busy builder has toiled successfully during the past year to add to the living stores of the great temple. Our Home missions, our French Missions, our educational efforts, have been crowned with marked prosperity, in some cases indeed with a measure of prosperity unprecedented in America. We have done something towards taking possession of the goodly heritage assigned to us: something,—alas, that it has not been ten fold more!

Presbyterian Missions extend to almost every part of the globe, and we may safely

say that from all these missions the reports of progress are exceedingly favourable. There has been an advance all along the line. *Old posts have been strengthened and new positions of great strategic importance have been taken up.* Every month, almost every week, tidings reach us from Presbyterian missions in different Provinces of the vast Chinese Empire, from Japan, India, Siam, Persia, Palestine, Egypt, South, West, North and Central Africa, Brazil, Mexico, and many a distant isle: and during the past year all were hopefully progressive, while some advanced with notably rapid strides. As already hinted, the Scottish churches have invaded Central Africa. Our own Church has sent at least two additional missionaries into the Foreign Field, Messrs. Douglas and Campbell, and others are preparing to follow.

While the Master has been graciously raising up men to do His work at home and abroad, He has been summoning others to their everlasting rest. All the churches have lost some of their noblest men: some of their best workers. The Lord gave—the Lord taketh away: blessed be name of the Lord.

Let us determine that with the help of God the year on which we have now entered shall be more fruitful of good in our sphere than the last year has been. Each member of the Church can strengthen not merely his own congregation but the Church as a whole. It is to individual effort we must look for every step in advance. This may be our last year on earth: for many of us it is sure to be. *Let us so resolve, and so do, that the last of our years shall be the best.*

"Perishing Souls."

THIS suggestive expression is often used with a glib indifference which shows how little its awful meaning is realized. Perishing bodies, failing health, houses of clay crumbling into dust,—we can perhaps realize the solemnity of these. The death of the body is saddening and sor-