

## MISSIONS OF IRISH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

While the Presbyterian Church of Ireland is nobly pressing on in the conflict at the front, and is occupying various important points in the heathen field, a specially important part of its work is in the home field. An appeal appears in the *Missionary Herald* of last month, from Rev. Dr. Macloskie who has devoted himself specially to the advancement of Colportages. We give some extracts :

"With Protestants and Roman Catholics alike, the colporteur finds his books an "open sesame" to gain an entrance to places from which otherwise he should be excluded. A colporteur visited the house of two Protestant ladies, sisters ; he saw only one of them, who bought a book from him. Next month he returned, and found the other sister in mourning, who informed him that his book had been blessed to its purchaser and that she had since gone to be with Jesus. A Colporteur found his way to a Protestant lady, who thought that if she said her prayers and went to church and paid her debts, her soul should be safe. He had an opportunity of explaining to her that salvation is to be found only by trusting in Christ. Had it not been for the books, he could not have got into conversation with her. A colporteur, who has been working in a Roman Catholic district, was asked, "How would you get on if you had no books?" "The people would not let me into their houses," was the reply.

"In an essay written by one of our colporteurs, which has just come to hand, we find this remarkable statement—"This last year I have sold 84 Douay Testaments to Roman Catholics ; and what is the result ? They are now acting the part of the Samaritan woman by recommending the good news to their neighbors, and telling them what a treasure they have found. I called on a woman not long since, who upon a previous visit, had purchased a Testament. When I was leaving she said, "Call in that house over in the bog ; I think they want a Testament." An individual, to whom I had sold a Testament, called to me at the top of his voice as I was passing on a post car, "J. B. wants a Testament, good man." This occurred in Ulster, in a district where bitter party spirit reigned a few years ago.

## NEED OF EFFORT.

"We appeal to ministers, elders, and Sabbath-school teachers to take up this cause through all parts of the country. Local efforts must be spontaneously made if much is to be done, for it is very little that those of us who are prominently identified with the cause can effect. What is needed is a conviction in the consciences of our people, and especially of office-bearers in the Church, that this is a genuine cause of Christ, and a resolve, without pushing or urging from without, that they will take up and promote the cause in their respective districts. No time is to be lost about this matter. We are aware that the noble Orphan Society is now largely occupying the attention of our people in these cold days ; but here is another cause which Christ Himself is commending to them. If Sessions will take cognizance of the subject of colportage, and make arrangements to have their congregations canvassed in its behalf, we venture to say that the result will justify the step, and that they will find themselves in the right place when at the head of a great missionary enterprise. We know a case of an elder in the country who offered £1 per week for a colporteur to spend three months amongst the Roman Catholics of his neighborhood, and the colporteur's labors have been remarkably blessed.

"And wherefore should our people not bring or send their contributions towards this good cause ? Derry is showing the Church an excellent example