

every application for aid carefully considered before grants are asked from the fund. In past years, the cities have contributed nobly on behalf of the Scheme, and in some Presbyteries many of the town and country congregations have also done exceedingly well. In several of the western Presbyteries of the Church, however, the response has been far from what it should have been, as the returns to last Assembly clearly indicate. It is hoped that this year, in every Presbytery, such action will be taken as will insure success, so that the minimum of \$750 and manse may be maintained. It ought now to be an understood and accepted thing that there shall be no going back. Our Methodist brethren are planning an advance movement like ours. Other denominations also are stimulated by our action. We stand before the whole community committed to the advance we have made, and we cannot retreat without shame and loss.

Editorial Correspondence.

SWITZERLAND—LUCERNE.

SWITZERLAND, the Helvetia of the Romans, is a small country, with a total area of only 15,991 square miles, lying between 45° 50' to 47° 84' N. Lat. and 5° 84' to 10° 30' E. Long. It comprises twenty-two cantons, dissimilar in size, language and modes of life; united since 1848 into a confederacy similar to that of the United States of America. The population in 1880 was 2,846,102, of whom 1,666,984 were Protestants and 1,161,055 R. Catholics; Jews, 7,380; other sects, 10,863. Each canton, in local matters, is quite independent of the others. The Federal Government has the supervision of the army, the postal and telegraph systems, and regulates the building and management of railways. It founds and supports universities, of which there are four, viz., at Zurich, Basel, Berne, and Geneva. Liberty of conscience and faith is guaranteed equally to all, although the order of Jesuits has been suppressed and their connection with church and school forbidden. The Federal Diet meets annually at Berne. The upper house is composed of two members from each canton; the lower house of one representative for every 20,000 souls. The Cabinet

consists of seven members, chosen by the Diet for a term of three years. The President is elected from among its members by the Diet, for one year only. Every man 20 years of age has the right to vote. Every citizen is a member of the army, which, on a war footing, can place 215,000 well-drilled soldiers in the field at twenty-four hours' notice. Education is free and compulsory. The public school-houses are among the finest edifices in the country. The result of this extravagance, as some people call it, is a greater ratio of general intelligence than is to be found in any other country under the sun. Children must go to school at six and must remain in it until they are thirteen years of age. The gymnasium, the blackboard, and object lessons generally, enter largely into the curriculum. Boys are trained to the use of arms from childhood. Every Swiss is supposed to be a good shot. All are taught to sing. Politeness is inculcated as a cardinal virtue, also respect for seniors, compassion for infirmity, kindness to all, even to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field. Strange it does seem, but the Swiss have no national language. On the German frontier, a German patois is spoken; where the boundary touches France, French; and where Italy, bad Italian. The people are very industrious. One sees no loafers at street corners nor idlers by the wayside. Every man has a calling. If he is not a professional or a farmer, he is a skilled mechanic, and works at his trade early and late. The women are as diligent as the men, often more so. But for the women, Switzerland would have been bankrupt long ago. The peasantry are poor, very poor, but there are no beggars. Every canton provides for those who are unable to earn their living. Drunkenness hides itself, if it exists at all. So much for the *morale* of this light-hearted, kindly and intensely patriotic people. They do not seem to be religious overmuch. Sunday, after the early morning services are over, is a day of general recreation and merry-making. On that day, the rates of travelling are cheaper, and steamers and cars are crowded with excursionists. Theatres, horse-races, boat-races, circuses and "shows," reap their harvest on Sunday. Many of the shops are open, but, practically, business is suspended. It is only fair to add that in the matter of the public amusements men-