

once in three years, it will be able to exercise a perceptible and very valuable influence for good upon the whole Presbyterian family. And those who are not yet Presbyterians will be able to see the system in its genuine completeness.

5. The Presbyterian Church is catholic, her roots are deep in the soil of the apostolic age; her ministry is primitive and apostolic (as even Bishop Lightfoot maintains); her polity is in accord with the Word of God, with right reason and the requirements of the foremost races of mankind. Presbyteritarianism will be the universal form of church government just as certainly as representative institutions are destined to prevail in all civilized countries. We do not predict this universality for any special type of Presbyteritarianism as now existing; we refer to its essential features and broad general principles. It will be the duty and the delight of the Council to point out more plainly than has been hitherto done the "essentials" of our system.

We are glad that our own Church will be ably represented at the Philadelphia Council, and we doubt not that our brethren will aid in wisely directing its deliberations and decisions. The eyes of the world will be upon that Council as they never before were upon a Presbyterian Assembly. Let our people pray for that Council. The presence of Christ alone can give it vitality and real influence. The blessing of God alone will make it a means of revival to Presbyteritarianism throughout the world.

Good News from France.

More important than political revolutions or the rise and downfall of parties is the fact that the Gospel in its purity is making progress in France such as has not been witnessed since the reign of Henry Fourth. Many agencies are at work, and there is ample scope for all. The nation seems heartsick and weary of Ultramontanism and its offspring, Infidelity. As a sign of the times the expulsion of the Jesuits and the suppression of other unauthorized Romish organizations, must be noted. These things could not have been done so peaceably, so effectively, until now. The progress of the Gospel among our own French-speaking fellow-countrymen prepares us to feel a deeper interest in what is taking place in France. One society alone, the *Société Évangélique*, sends the Gospel to over a hundred and forty districts hitherto purely Roman Catholic. Leading men, officials of the government, mayors, prefects, magistrates, support the new movement. The people *en masse* in some places rise to welcome the evangelists. In some of the more central places, Conferences are held where the Gospel is expounded, by eminent laymen

as well as by clergymen. As a sample of the work carried on we quote the following:

Mr. Reveillaud and Mr. Daruier of Geneva have begun a series of such conferences in the Côte d'Or and Saône and Loire departments. They broke ground at Dijon, an intensely Romish city, in its aristocratic and upper bourgeois classes. The meetings were held in the Grand Philharmonic Hall of the Hôtel de Ville, readily granted, heated and lighted by the Municipal Council, the subject of the first address being, "The Religion of the Syllabus and Modern Society utterly irreconcilable." The Romish party did their best to make the meetings a failure, but without effect. The audiences reached 1200, and gave the most earnest attention and rapturous approval to the speaker (Mr. Reveillaud.) At the door two hundred and fifty Bibles and New Testaments were sold by the colporteur. At a crowded gathering of people the other day in Paris in the Oratoire, convened to hear some results of these conferences, Mr. Pressensé, one of the speakers, gave emphatic testimony to the widespread desire to hear the gospel. His words were: "I have come to be decidedly of opinion, without concealing from myself the difficulties and obstacles in the way, that never since the Reformation has there been a more favourable moment for the spread of Protestant doctrine. A great door is indeed open. Secure almost anywhere a large hall, and invite the people to hear the gospel, and you will find crowds gather. I have myself, at some of those *réunions*, when I have been asked to speak, been borne away and truly electrified by the crowds. And, in many ways, circumstances are on the side of the gospel." On the same occasion, Dr. Fisch remarked that in his study, two maps hung before him—the one having the thirty-eight thousand communes of France, the other that of *Protestant France*; and that his heart was touched, as he looked on the blank parts of the latter, and thought that in the sixteenth century nearly a third of France was won to the gospel. How different to-day—whole departments without a single Protestant parish or even station. But it can be said that things are now changing for the better. France waits to receive the gospel.

S. S. CENTENARY.—The Centenary of the foundation of the English Sabbath School system by Robert Raikes was celebrated in London and in many other places, during the week beginning with the 26th June. In London a Convention was held, attended by delegates from the United States and Canada as well as from various European countries. The best way in which we can celebrate this Centenary year is by renewed consecration to our work for Christ.