

THE

Home and Foreign Record

OF

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE LOWER PROVINCES.

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THE PAST YEAR.

THE past year has been important in the religious as well as in the political world. The system of the Church of Rome having reached logical completeness by the adoption of the Infallibility Dogma, the consequences of the completed system are becoming manifest. There is no nation in Europe—in the world—now on terms of strict agreement with the Papacy. The nations, one after another, have felt compelled to assert their own rights, and to act in opposition to the Ultramontaniam now become almost synonymous with Romanism.

All the Bishops of the Church of Rome have, during the past year, given in their submission to the Pope. Nearly all the priests have followed their example. This is a great triumph to the Court of Rome. As an offset, we have a promising Reform movement in Bavaria, and extending to other parts of Germany and to Italy and Austria. All we can say of it is that it is hopeful. There is too little of evangelical zeal and fervor about it to deserve the title of a second Reformation.

The city of Rome is no longer ruled by the Pope. Two months ago Victor Emmanuel opened the Italian parliament there, and thus marked the consummation of a great revolution.

There have been unusual tokens of life among the Protestant Churches in continental Europe, especially in Holland and Prussia.

In England the old battle between Protestantism and Popery and Ritualism has

been waged with keenness within the pale of the Established Church. The Presbyterian Churches in the British Isles devoted much time and attention to the discussion of union among themselves. The prospect for speedy union is not bright. Evangelistic efforts at home and abroad have been prosecuted with unabated vigour. The Presbyterian Church of Ireland has proved her ability to stand firmly, and to perform good work for her Master, though deprived of State favours. She never had a more prosperous year than the past.

Coming to America, we note with gladness the continued prosperity of the Presbyterian Churches in the United States, and the complete success of the effort to raise Five Million dollars as a Memorial Fund : instead of Five Millions, Eight Millions were realized ! Presbyterian missions have also been largely extended.

In British America we have had important and hopeful negotiations for union. These are still going on : and we hope and pray that they shall be so conducted as to advance the glory of God and the good of the church. It is pleasing to witness a decided improvement in the relations between the different Presbyterian bodies. In this respect indeed there is little more to be desired. The spirit of brotherly love has been given very abundantly.

The Canada Presbyterian Church has, for the first time, sent forth one of her ministers as a Missionary to the Heathen. Our own Church has had the honour this year of sending forth two Missionaries to the New Hebrides ; and our sister Church