

than all the other denominations can show together. The coloured population are chiefly Baptists or Methodists. The Presbyterian Church in North Carolina numbers 14,264.

LABRADOR.—A missionary who has been engaged in evangelistic labour at Labrador, during the past summer, was wrecked off the coast of Newfoundland, whilst on his way home in a Newburyport fishing schooner. All aboard the vessel reached the shore in safety; and, after a week of suffering in the woods, were rescued by a schooner bound for Halifax.

ISLAND OF FORMOSA.—Wonderful openings for the spread of the Gospel are reported from this land. Both Canadian and English Presbyterian Missionary Societies are labouring assiduously, and everywhere the people seem most ready and willing to listen to the Gospel.

PARIS.—Open-air meetings have lately been held in districts of Paris, frequented by the wealthy classes. Pastors of three different denominations have conducted the services.

BEYROUT.—The Turkish Pasha, who was recently Governor of Beyrout, received a complaint from certain parties that the American Missionaries had decoyed a Greek girl away from her parents, and were about to marry her by force to a Protestant young man. The Pasha replied in the presence of a large company: "Tell your friends that this is not true. I have long known the American Missionaries, and they have never yet done such a thing, and never will do it. That is not their way of doing business. Believe me, they are upright men."

ROME.—Union prayer meetings are now being held in Rome, being well attended by the varied Christian denominations. The place where the meetings are held is often so crowded that it is difficult to obtain admission. The people listen with marked attention during all the exercises, and everywhere in Italy they seem waiting for the Gospel.

Family Reading.

New Year Counsel on Eternal Service to God.

BELOVED CHRISTIAN FRIENDS,—We have, through the Lord's goodness, been permitted to enter upon another year, and the minds of many amongst us will no doubt be occupied with plans for the future, and the various spheres of service in which, if our lives be spared, we shall be engaged. The welfare of our families, the prosperity of our business, our work and service for the Lord, may be considered the most important matters to be attended to; but, according to my judgment, the most important point to be attended to is this—*Above all things, see to it that your souls are happy in the Lord.* Other things may press upon you; the Lord's work, even, may have urgent claims upon your attention; but I deliberately repeat, it is of supreme and paramount importance that you should seek, above all other things, to have your souls truly happy in God Himself. Day by day seek to make this the most important business of your life. This has been my firm and settled conviction for the last five-and-thirty years. For the first four years after my conversion I knew not its vast importance, but now, after much experience, I specially commend this point to the notice of my younger brethren and sisters in Christ. The secret of all true effectual service is,—joy in God, and having experimental acquaintance and fellowship with God Himself.

But in what way shall we attain to this settled happiness of soul? How shall we learn to enjoy God? how obtain such an all-sufficient, soul-satisfying portion in Him, as shall enable us to let go the things of this world as vain and worthless in comparison? I answer, This happiness is to be obtained through the study of the Holy Scriptures. God has therein revealed Himself unto us in the face of Jesus Christ.

In the Scriptures, by the power of the Holy Ghost, He makes Himself known unto our souls. Remember, it is not a god of our own thoughts, or our own imaginations, that we need to be acquainted with; but the God of the Bible,