

conversion of children. The same Holy Spirit in all cases uses the Gospel for saving souls; but, in applying it to children, He illustrates most notably two of its features, viz., its entire freeness, for what could a child give to God? and its amazing simplicity, which is so humbling to the pride of self-righteous man. "I thank Thee, O Father, that Thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes." (Luke x. 21; and as Jesus said this, "*He rejoiced in spirit.*") "Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, shall in no wise enter therein" (Luke xviii. 17.) Nothing was done by the babes or little children whom Christ blessed but this, they let Him lift them up in His arms without resistance, and received what He gave without offering Him any price in return!

A. D. 1870.

Years are not all alike, and therefore we do not observe the end of every one of them with the same feelings. Sometimes disappointment predominates, sometimes hope, sometimes satisfaction and lively anticipation. Notwithstanding that events in the East of Europe have within the last fortnight taken an ominous turn, we must so far regard 1870 as a memorable and glorious year, which, on the whole, is fitted to inspire bright hopes for years to come. It appropriately terminates as eventful a decade as any in our calendar perhaps.

It is not the peculiarity only of the events which have happened in our own country or neighbouring nations that we refer to. We wonder at their diversity and universality, and at their beneficent influence. What country is there that during the last ten years has not marked, in a greater or less degree, unmistakeable progress or memorable results?

America has liberated her four millions of slaves; and within herself new fountains of intelligence, charity, and religion have sprung up, and are diffusing through the length and breadth of her territory fresh and fertilising streams. Through fire and through water she has struggled to a worthier and more influential place among nations than ever she held before.

Madagascar has renounced her ancient superstitions, and is clad in bridal attire, as if she were to sit down for ever among the noblest of the King's daughters.

Great strides in political and religious progress have been reported from India. It does seem as if the fruits of much missionary faith and toil were about to be gathered, at least to the extent of seven fold, in several districts of that populous and long misgoverned country. Certainly the prospects for Christianity there were never so fair.

Equally cheering intelligence has reached us from several of our other dependencies and colonies. A good work has been done in Australia and in Jamaica, and in the islands of the South Seas. The Gospel has commanded new attention, and has obtained new influence in Syria, and generally in Asia Minor. Jerusalem begins to be looked at with new interest, as assuredly destined to be the centre of a great movement, and in connection with the truth and triumph of God's Word.

But it is in Europe that during the year the most thrilling events have