

to aid them in conquering the evil and returning to the right.

In looking back on the tide of external events, the past year has not been less eventful than some of its predecessors. It has seen Europe, for the first time for many years, plunged into a declared and sanguinary war, threatening at one time to lay waste some of the fairest portions of a land full of interesting and time-honoured associations. It closed unexpectedly when it seemed at its crisis, whether happily or unhappily, remains to be seen, for, whether this war, involving the effusion of such torrents of blood and the sacrifice of so many thousand lives, has really served the true interests of liberty, is a problem which the course of future events alone can determine. The martial spirit, however, more easily aroused than repressed has threatened to carry the horrors of war even to the peaceful shores of our own mother isle, but that danger seems for the present averted. God grant that the country which has stood so long pre-eminent in defending true liberty, and preserving a pure Christianity, may be long blessed with peace and prosperity, and still farther purified and strengthened to fulfil her noble mission more faithfully than ever!

Turning from the Eastern shores of the Atlantic to our own immediate vicinity we see a country where, under the mask of a scarcely pretended unity, bitter animosities, conflicting views and violent passions are at work like the volcanic elements under ground, which already give token of a coming eruption. The late excitement in Virginia, and the sad events connected with it, which have absorbed so much interest of late, must give rise to ominous misgivings for the future, for, however mistaken and rash the old hero of Harper's Ferry may have been, we can hardly help believing that a truly good man has fallen in the struggle against the slave power, and that the indignation which his death has aroused in many may find vent in a terrible retribution.

One of the most interesting events of the past year was the final clearing-up of the fates of the brave voyagers of the North. Hope of Sir John Franklin's return had long ago been extinguished, but it was pleasant to know that he at least was spared the misery of the fate our imaginations had pictured,—and that, while as yet prospects seemed bright and danger distant, he was gently taken away from the evil to come.

The loss of the *Austria* in 1858 has found a parallel in the loss of the *Royal Charter* in 1859. Heart-rending as the details are, all that passed in that dark tempestuous morning amidst breaking chains and parting timbers is known to Him only who holds the winds in the hollow of His hand. Doubtless He had wise and good reasons for so mysterious a providence, into which our vision dares not

penetrate. May the sorrowing hearts which it has left desolate and broken be led to see that He indeed "doeth all things well." The wreck of the "*Indian*" on our own coasts, though the loss of life was most providentially comparatively small, has brought the lesson of our helplessness and dependence home to ourselves, a lesson which, in spite of every warning, we are constantly forgetting.

The revivals, which last year began in the United States, have been manifesting themselves in increased power and extent in Scotland and Ireland. The accounts of the marvellous events there seem to us sometimes almost incredible; and yet, though there may be much in them presenting difficulties and perplexities to our minds, there is much also to assure us that real spiritual good has been in many cases their result. Shall we not pray that the Great Head of the Church will send upon us, even us also, a blessing, warming our cold hearts and rousing us from the apathetic stupor, which is perhaps, the most insidious enemy of our spiritual life?

A glance at the leading events of the year would be incomplete without an allusion to that which has most interested us as members of a Church during its progress—the establishment of our first Foreign Mission. Our Canadian Church has solemnly consecrated her Jewish Missionary to his work, and sent him forth with the last parting instructions to proclaim the true Messiah to his brethren in Turkey, on whose shores he has probably ere this time arrived. Let us be thankful that our first Missionary enterprise has been directed to God's chosen people, "whom He foreknew,"—for, though this Mission of all others, humanly speaking, presents the greatest difficulties, yet to the Christian difficulties are but food for faith, and more urgent stimulus to earnest prayer. Let the prayers of the Church then ascend in unison for our distant Missionary, that the God of His Fathers may be with him in his work, giving him strength in weakness and wisdom in perplexity, and enabling him, as well by a consistent Christian life and conversation as by his more active efforts, to commend to his unbelieving brethren the Gospel he has gone to preach. And, if in this respect we but do our duty, can we doubt that He, who hath promised to fulfil the petition of even *two* agreeing in His name, will grant us abundantly our request.

Let us begin this new year, remembering that the "night is far spent, the day is at hand;"—that the "morning cometh" for those who have "cast off the works of darkness and put on the armour of light;" but the *night*, a night of thick darkness, that knows no dawning, for those who persist in living without God and without hope in the world! Surely then "it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now

is our salvation nearer than when we believed."

ONOMA.

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