

THE  
**Presbyterian Record.**

JANUARY, 1877.

**Presbyterianism in 1876.**

THE past year, like all the years, has been short, and the flight of the days swift; yet there has been time for much sowing of precious seed and for the gathering in of many golden sheaves. Standing on the threshold of a new year, it becomes us well to ask how have we as a church used the opportunities afforded us for the advancement of the Redeemer's Kingdom, and doing the work assigned us by God? What report can we make of ourselves? And what can we say respecting the sisterhood of Presbyterian Churches throughout the world? We are Christians, and we count none alien that bear the Christian name; yet, we have a right to feel the deepest interest in the churches of our own order. Our survey must be very brief, but it will afford material to strengthen our faith and quicken our zeal.

In the Fatherland, all the Presbyterian Churches have had a year of more than usual fruitfulness. Their membership has largely increased. Their colleges show an increase in the number of students for the ministry. The poor and the outcast have had the Gospel brought nigh to them as it never was before. The money given to support foreign missions amounts to a considerably larger total than in any previous year, and many men and women have gone forth to heathen lands. What we have said holds true of the Established, the Free, the United Presbyterian, the English and the Irish Churches.

In Scotland a union was completed between Covenanters and the Free Church, and this, by the way, has made the Free Church a fellow-worker with our own Church in the New Hebrides Mission. A union was also consummated last year between two branches of the Presbyterian family in England, and steps have been taken to signalize the event by a Thank-Offering of a million dollars for the Lord's work. Our Church has thus attained a visibility in England such as it has not had since the days of the Westminster Assembly. The three churches in Scotland have united in missionary operations in Central Africa,—surely a happy omen! The Missionary Committees of the different Churches hold joint meetings from time to time, and thus strengthen each other's hands and pave the way for more co-operation.

Regarding the Presbyterian Churches on the European Continent, we have little to report beyond the fact stated by Dr. Blaikie, that they have not yet experienced much of that fresh current of spiritual life which has been pouring over the British and American churches. In Spain, our youthful sister is threatened with extinction by the strong arm of persecution. Even meetings for prayer are disallowed. In France a fierce controversy still rages between the so called Liberal and the Orthodox sections into which the Reformed Church is almost equally divided. Separation seems inevitable, and under such circumstances it is hardly to be deprecated, for heart-union, in truth and love, has long ceased to exist. In Holland, too, trouble of a somewhat similar character exists, and a