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The Presbyterian World.

It will do us good to survey our own wide-spread family of 20,265,000 at least once a year. Well, the British Churches show healthy activity in various directions. Scotland is discussing with unusual keenness the question of disestablishment. In the Free Church the Dods-Bruce trouble seems as unsettled as ever. But, let us thankfully acknowledge, the Scottish Churches show no abatement of zeal or liberality in the cause of missions. In England Presbyterianism is becoming increasingly "visible." The little one bids fair to become a thousand. The Presbyterians are bearing their share in the great work of rescuing the outcasts in London.

The Irish Church is active and energetic in her efforts to spread the Gospel at home and abroad. Much attention has been given by this Church to political movements which (they think) threaten the safety of the country. With marvellous unanimity the church adheres with unflinching fidelity to the union and protests against Home Rule. Our Welsh brethren have had their share of trouble with taxes which they regard as unjust—taxes—tithes—meant to support the English Church there established, but of no use to any except a small fraction of the population.

The Reformed Church of France is becoming more evangelical and at the same time more evangelistic. She is regaining some of the ground lost in the long dark night of persecution when a Huguenot had no more consideration shewn to him than the wild beasts of the forest—when safety was to be gained only in the wilderness and in the gloomy recesses of the everlasting hills. Persecution in these days assumes milder forms, and any one may in fact follow the dictates of conscience without peril of life.

In Italy, the Waldenses—the most venerable of the Presbyterian Churches—have won the respect of the authorities and the confidence of the people to an extent which a few years ago would seem incredible. Whilst the Pope is complaining of being a persecuted prisoner in Rome, the faithful witnesses from the Alpine valleys traverse Italy proclaiming the Gospel of salvation, and in some places meet with signal success. Surely a brighter day has risen upon Europe and the world. The Waldensian college at La Tour is now recognized by the government as of equal status with any in Italy!

Spain contains a very small "remnant" of Presbyterians and the number is but slowly increasing. The inquisition has done its work in that field, leaving it bare and barren and very hopeless. The union of Presbyterians in Brazil, as in Japan, has been attended with the best results. Missionary operations are carried on with increased vigour and success. Trained natives of the country are now taking part in the ministry.