

beseech thee, O Lord; we beseech Thee send now prosperity!

While the year closes so peacefully as respects the British Empire and our whole American continent, we should sympathize deeply with that gallant but misguided people, whose lands are trodden and desolated by the feet of invading armies, and we may well remember that the miseries of the Germans are second only to those of the French. We may at the same time give thanks for the ministries of mercy and love which have arisen wherever the demon of war has extended his cruelties. The red cross is the badge of thousands from our noble fatherland as well as from Germany and France, men and women who have given themselves to the work of attending the sufferings of the wounded and supplying the wants of the sick. Funds are supplied without stint. Hundreds of thousands of pounds sterling have been freely sent over to the Continent to provide the comforts dispensed by these angels of mercy; and the spirit of self-denial, and of Christian love thus called forth as one of the redeeming features of the otherwise terrible conflict.

Presbyterianism has shewn more than its wonted vitality during the past year. In the United States the union of the Old and New Schools has nobly stood the test of its first and most trying year. Parties who once were rivals, have vied with each other in manifestations of generous confidence and brotherly love. Marked progress has already been made in raising the Five Million Thank-offering; Home Missions; Foreign Missions; Colportage; Theological education, in short, all the evangelistic enterprizes of the church, have felt the happy influence of the union. In England the Presbyterians have been working with the utmost energy, extending the influence of a pure evangelical system in places that have long lain under the blight of a proud but dead erastianism or a galvanized sacerdotalism. There is a prospect of an early union of the branches of the Presbyterian family in England. Especially gratifying to all Presbyterians must be the vigour, the wisdom, the zeal mani-

festing during a year of peculiar trial by our sister church in Ireland. Ministers and people have risen with equal spirit to meet a great emergency. The withdrawal of the *Regium Donum* bids fair to prove the occasion of a new era of self-sacrifice and earnest united work. In Scotland there has been much to interest the thoughtful observer. The proposed union between the non-established churches has met the approval of nearly all the United Presbyterians and Covenanters, but it has met the most earnest opposition of an influential minority in the Free Church. "Patronage" has been denounced by a large majority of the Established Church Assembly.—The missionary and evangelic efforts of the Scottish churches were never more vigorously prosecuted.

Looking nearer home, we must not forget to note the promising outlook there is for union among the Presbyterians of these Provinces. Union Committees met in Montréal; and the most sanguine could not hope for brighter results. We know not what a year or even a day may bring forth; but we believe and know that the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus must be advanced, until all lands are brought under His sway. Be it ours, while spared from year to year, to do all in our power to hasten that blessed time.

STATISTICS.

In a few days the blanks for the Statistical Returns for 1870 will be in the hands of all our Sessions. These blanks should be filled up without delay and sent to the Clerks of Presbyteries. The Synod of 1869 directed the Committee on Statistics to have the table for that year published in the *Record* for June, 1870. This, the Committee tried to do, but they found it utterly impossible, as Sessions failed to send in their returns in time to the Clerks of Presbyteries, and the Clerks could not forward them to the Committee. This was a serious disappointment. The matter was brought before the Synod, and explanations were offered; but it was clear that there