

removed, and liberty of worship is proclaimed and protected, shows plainly the power of the Word over error. Nor has the sister state of Portugal been left unvisited by Gospel influences. The Wesleyans and other Protestant denominations speak encouragingly of the progress of their missions in Lisbon and other parts of the kingdom.

Geneva and Protestant Switzerland, or at least that part of it which cherishes religious life, has been compelled at length to protest, by a manifesto declaring its evangelical principles, against the rationalism of many who disgraced its Church in the eyes of the Christian world. In Holland, also, some impression seems to have been made upon the rationalistic body of ministers, who have neglected the flock over which the State made them overseers. The people have now a voice in the election of their pastors, and are introducing men of evangelical views.

The Russian Government, and even the Greek Church, of which the Czar is the head, have shown themselves not unfriendly to the circulation of the Scriptures in that vast empire, under certain conditions. The German-speaking and Lutheran subjects of Alexander II., who inhabit the Baltic provinces, have, however, had cause to complain of his endeavor to bring them within the pale of the national Church, and unfortunately the evangelical deputation which waited upon the Czar for the purpose of mediating in the matter, returned without having accomplished any satisfactory result. The smaller branch of that Church in Greece exhibits many signs of life. Sabbath schools have been established, and a large body of the clergy has petitioned for reform in different branches of the Church's work; but the Patriarch is obdurate. Meanwhile there are preachers like the Athenian Archimandrite, Dionysius Latas, who set forth the great truths of evangelical Christianity, exalting Christ and the word of God before the people. All this must bear fruit.

In Turkey the American missionaries have to chronicle important additions to the Church during the past year. In Armenia, especially, a whole village has become obedient to the faith. The Free Church of Scotland and American Missions in Syria and Palestine not only have maintained their ground, but in their educational institutions have been laying foundations broad and deep for future success. On the 12th of November, 1870, the Rev. G. W. Coan wrote from Oroomiah, in Persia, to the Editor of *Christian Work*, saying, "On the evening of October 25th, we had a most wonderful display of the aurora borealis, the more remarkable as we very rarely see the faintest signs of northern lights in Persia. Between the hours of nine and eleven p.m. the whole northern heaven, half-way up to the zenith, presented the appearance of a vast sheet of flame, red as molten iron. The edges were of a paler color; then the flame hung motionless, till at last it separated into vast columns, and finally paled away and disappeared. Some of the superstitious say it portends the plague, or some other fearful sickness; others that it prognosticates war; others earthquakes, &c." It is remarkable that last year Persia was visited by a famine of unusual severity, during the continuance of which many thousands perished, and from the effects of which the people of that ancient kingdom are still suffering. Doubtless, however, as in the case of the recent famine in India, a way will be opened up for the Gospel through its instrumentality, and Mr. Coan's view of the portent be realized. "May it be the harbinger of bright and glorious days for this benighted land, when Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, shall arise with healing in His beams."