

party with flowers and confections. We enjoyed a rare opportunity of seeing the lands of Rosh, Mesekhek, and Tubal, who doubtless with their million of men, will play an important part in European affairs at no distant day.

The Islands of the Neva form an ideal park. They are formed by some of the branches of the river, as they fall into the gulf. They are connected by numerous bridges, and are intersected by beautifully kept roads and shady walks. The fashionables dine about six o'clock, and about eight o'clock these drives are full of the carriages of the elite, drawn by black, high stepping, long tailed horses. About sunset the scene is singularly beautiful and attractive.

But all things come to an end, and on a Tuesday afternoon at 4:55 we displayed our police permission to leave at the railway station, and were soon seated in the small compartments of a corridor carriage in the vestibuled and restaurant train known as the Express du Nord en route for London. Our only change of carriage was at St. Eydthunnen on the German frontier where the Russian system ends. We were here transferred to a carriage identical with the one we left. This transfer is necessitated by the change of gauge, the Russian government having adopted a different width of track, to prevent the danger of any sudden invasion. Our route lay through Germany and Belgium, and we crossed the channel from Ostend to Dover. We reached London at 7:45 p.m. on Thursday, glad to find ourselves once more in the land of freedom.

THE EDGE OF THE YEAR.

BY SOPHIE L. SCHENCK.

We stand upon the edge of a new year. What lies before us the next twelve months we cannot tell, but of one thing we may be sure, we need not pass over its untried ways alone. Jesus will be our guide. Close to His side, with our hand in His, we should feel no fears.

We have just passed through a year of many and great changes. The whole world has been shaken financially as seldom before. People living in affluence have been reduced to want, while those in only moderate circumstances have in many cases lost their all. Thus many enter this new year with spirits saddened under trials and bereavements, and as they look forward, new revolutions are formed for a nearer and closer walk with God.

With the dawn of each new year we should dedicate ourselves afresh to Christ's service, determined with His aid to do what we can for the benefit of others who may be in bitter troubles without spiritual comfort. Let us strive then to make known the sweet "peace" that Jesus alone is able to bestow.

Life is a precious boon, and with every year we should aim at new attainments for our spiritual growth, at the same time striving to throw around sweet influences that shall lead others to seek after holiness.

Not for ourselves alone should life be spent,
But for the Lord's dear sake that men repent;
Not for the world's applause, not gold to win,
But some poor soul to save steeped deep in sin,
This let our lifework be, some good to do,
As o'er the New Year's edge our way we view.

Something to show that we lived not in vain!
Some word or kindly touch to lessen pain!
Only a look perchance some heart may cheer,
Only a whispered word may banish fear!
So good deeds, small or great, with Christ in view
Should be our wish and aim this year to do.

THE LOSS OF THE "DAYSRING."

The "Armand Behic," which reached Sydney on Tuesday morning, brought, among her passengers, some of the survivors of the wreck of the mission vessel "Dayspring," which was lost to the north of New Caledonia on the 17th inst., by striking on a submerged coral reef. Captain C. W. Bibbing, who naturally feels keenly the loss of the vessel, has kindly supplied us with the full particulars of the disaster. It occurred near the entrance of what is known as Grand Passe, where the channel is between twenty and thirty miles wide, and where there was nothing to indicate the presence of this hitherto unknown reef. He had intended first to take the course to the south of New Caledonia, on account of the strong northerly winds, but was again compelled by head winds to take the northern course,

which is the most direct one to the New Hebrides. The night on which the vessel struck the reef was clear and fine, the sea smooth, and the terrific shock to the vessel was the first indication of danger. All hands worked well to save the ship, and it was not until noon, when the sea was washing over the main deck, that the captain and crew were compelled to leave in the two boats. Shortly after leaving, the "Dayspring" foundered. The boat in charge of the captain contained nine others of the crew, who, after four days' exposure, were picked up by the "Saint Pierre" and conveyed to Noumea. Much anxiety is felt about the fate of the other six of the crew in the missing boat, which is under the charge of the chief officer, Mr. W. J. Carnichael. This anxiety is somewhat allayed by the assurance of Captain Bibbing that, under ordinary circumstances, they will probably be safe enough. The boat has provisions and water to last a month, and as the scene of the wreck is only about fifty miles distant from Pot Island, in all probability they are there awaiting the arrival of some steamer. As the "Saint Pierre," a subsidised mail boat, is continually cruising in that neighborhood, Captain Bibbing thinks we may hear their rescue in the course of a few days. The "Dayspring," which cost about £10,000 to build and equip, was only insured for £2,000; the Sydney cargo was also insured, but in addition to this there was a Melbourne cargo, the loss of which is uncovered. This is the third vessel of the same name that has been lost in the mission service. It owed its existence to the untiring energy of the veteran missionary, Dr. Paton, and there is widespread sorrow at the calamity which has destroyed the ship which represented the loving labors and the earnest hopes of so many. Much sympathy has already been expressed by the public press for the loss to the Church and the mission field. The Congregational Union sent a letter to Dr. Cosh, giving expression to the grief felt by a sister Church. It is just possible that the disaster may awaken such a keen interest in the work of the New Hebrides that the desire to build another "Dayspring" will be carried to complete success. One lady has already offered the Committee of Foreign Missions the sum of £1,000 towards this purpose, and from cablegrams it appears that others are contributing. The temporary loss may ultimately prove to be permanent gain.—*Australian Weekly*.

THE ROMAN CHURCH IN EUROPE.

The Roman Church in Europe has undergone greater changes and experienced more disasters during the last twenty-six years than at any period since the Reformation. In 1870 the Pope was a temporal ruler like any king or potentate. It is true his kingdom was not very large—the city of Rome and a few miles of adjacent territory. But it was something to be a king, and Pius IX. made the most of his earthly crown. He convened the Vatican Council which declared him infallible in 1870. What more could a man do for his exaltation on earth? A Roman Emperor had issued a decree that he was a god and his statue received the same honor and worship that was accorded to Jupiter and the other pagan gods. But he did not pretend to be endowed with the attributes of the Deity. That blasphemous presumption was reserved for his successor on the throne of the Cæsars and the self-styled vicar of Christ who declared himself infallible. All Europe was shocked, Christendom was appalled at this blasphemy. Two months later the Italian troops entered Rome, Victor Emmanuel was proclaimed king of United Italy and the Pope's crown and temporal power disappeared never to be restored. In God's good time His spiritual supremacy shall follow and Jesus will be King.

All hail the power of Jesus name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all.

What is prayer for? Not to inform God, nor to move Him, unwillingly, to have mercy, as if, like some proud prince, He required a certain amount of recognition of His greatness as the price of His favor; but to fit our own hearts by conscious need, and true desire and dependence, to receive the gift which He is ever willing to give, but we are not always fit to receive.