

even while the Pope was declaring *ex cathedra* that the temporal power was necessary in the Divine plan, to the execution of the spiritual duties of the Vicar of Christ, God by the hand of Providence wrote on the walls of his city, Mene Tekel, weighed, found wanting, numbered, finished! Could there be a more direct blow to Infallibility? In a few days after the dogma was declared, the sceptre which he pronounced necessary to the full exercise of his spiritual functions had passed away. The temporal power vanished.

The past year has seen another step in the progress of Protestant nations and races to the chief power.

At the commencement of the year, if the British power in Europe were placed first, the French would have stood second. At its close it may be a question which should stand first, but if the British Empire were placed there, it is certain that a united Germany occupying the heart of Europe must come next. France is paralyzed: and though we do not rejoice in her day of trouble, we cannot close our eyes and refuse to see that it is manifestly the will of Providence that Protestant nations with their open Bible and free Institutions should lead the van of modern civilization. On our own continent we see something of the same kind; and if we look to the Antipodes we see a new power in Australia growing with immense rapidity, which is Christian and Protestant to the core. But we do not enlarge on the general subject, wishing merely to notice the singular chain of events in Europe, which during the past year has culminated in the depression of one of the main props of the Papacy, and in the elevation of the Protestant element.

In the Lower Provinces in which our *Record* circulates, with a large share of general prosperity in agriculture, the fisheries and commerce, for which we should be profoundly thankful, we have also enjoyed signs of another kind of prosperity which is more precious still. Some of our congregations have had times of refreshing and of ingathering. Our Home Missionaries have been, we regret to say, few, but the labours of those employed have cer-

tainly been owned of God. The ranks of our ministers have been thinned by death, and the call to those in life loud to work while it is day.

From the foreign field we have received the startling news of Mr. McNair's death. Our present number contains the fullest particulars written by his devoted wife. His life and character have been so fully stated by Mr. Neilson and Dr. Geddie that nothing remains to be supplemented. We have met with another great loss, and in this day of adversity are called to consider the aspects of Providence. In reviewing the year we should review our spirit and our whole course and mode of procedure on the subject of Missions. We know that some are discouraged, and consider that under the Lord's rebuke it may be duty to turn our energies and funds in some other direction. By all means let the subject be examined, weighed, and, if need be, discussed, but if all mission stations had been abandoned in the day of trial, there would be few open to-day in any part of the world. On this principle the Micmac mission must cease, the Kankakee mission must be closed, and Erromanga must certainly be given over to Satan. But God's people are not prepared to entertain such proposals.

Rather let us get rid of our pride and self-sufficiency; let us get down to the dust, and on our knees entreat the Lord to guide us how to choose Missionaries, and how to sustain them when sent forth, how to conduct the Mission, and how to win souls so as to secure to Him all the glory.

We have something for which to give thanks. Our departed brother died at his post, breathing forth no regrets that he had preached Christ to heathen. A young Brother has offered himself to go immediately to fill up the blank, others have volunteered so soon as they can be prepared. While, then, the Lord has sent forth one to Trinidad, His Spirit has been moving in the hearts of others, so that we have good reason to trust that He will carry on His own work, and will not despise or reject our agency. Save now, we