

unmingled. Destructive floods and unseasonable rains marred the products of our fields. Pestilence and war hovered darkly around our borders. The sea has yielded less abundantly than usual; and the folly of unreasonable men has interfered injuriously with the course of trade. Withal, we have much to be grateful for; and but little of which we can complain. The lines have fallen to us in pleasant places; we have a goodly heritage.

The Kingdom of Christ has made marked progress during the year. Missionaries among Jews and Gentiles have reported much cheering intelligence. It is not too much to assert that more Bibles have been circulated than in any previous year—that the religious press has been unprecedentedly energetic, and fertile in good works,—that the name of Jesus has been proclaimed more widely by printed page and by the living voice than ever before. Fresh fields have been occupied; strong posts of the enemy have been assailed if not conquered. Strange and barbaric tongues have been taught to speak the wondrous story of the cross; and thousands have been gathered into the Redeemer's fold in places where but lately his name was unknown, or the object of hatred and scorn. Not in vain did the voice of united prayer ascend throughout Christendom at the beginning of the year. The prayers of faith have been answered, are receiving their answers now.

How many grateful hearts have uttered thanksgiving to the God of Battles, the Lord of Hosts, for the results of the late war in Europe! Most clearly is the hand of Jehovah visible, over-ruling the lawless passions of men, the lust of power, the desire of revenge, the cruel instincts of tyranny,—to His own wise and good ends—overturning—overturning—overturning—till He shall reign whose right it is to reign. Antichrist is made to bite the dust. The power at whose fulminations the mightiest monarchs trembled has become the most despised on earth. The tyrant of the bodies and souls of men, drunk with the blood of saints, now reels and staggers in its dreary dotage, looking in vain for help. The

angels and the saints of God will rejoice over thy fall, O Babylon! The myriads whose blood thou hast shed, whom thou didst crush under thy chariot wheels in the day of thy pride, will shout, "Alleluia; for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth." What multitudes have longed for, agonized for in prayer during many centuries, is taking place under our eyes. Short as was the late European war, in its results it promises to be one of the most important in history.

Not more remarkable is the decay of the Papal power in its ancient centre than its revival within the pale of the Episcopal Church in England, in the Colonies, and in the United States. The enemy has been creeping in for years; but his assaults have recently become bold and daring. The result promises to be that the English Church must become thoroughly Protestant or thoroughly Papistical.

Among the Presbyterian Churches throughout the world, the last year has been one of comparative peace and comfort, and quiet growth. There have been divisions and extensive movements looking towards union among the Presbyterians in the neighbouring Republic. In Scotland, the two all engrossing questions have been the ritualist innovations within the Establishment, and the union movement among the Churches that are free from State control. There has been developed within the Scottish Establishment a latitudinarian, "free-thinking" school, led by Robert Lee, Tulloch, Norman Macleod and Caird; and these men are followed by a host of the younger ministers. They are tired of the Decalogue "qua decalogue," of the Sabbath, of the Confession of Faith, and the Puritan Theology; and they claim to be the apostles of "modern thought." There are faithful men left in the Establishment who do battle bravely for the truth.

Of the union movement in Scotland, it is impossible to speak with confidence. Great progress has been made; but the wished-for consummation does not seem so near at hand as was at one time anticipated. As the cause is of God, there is no doubt that He will remove all obstacles in His own good time and way.