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Toronto, December, 28, 1893.

New Year Thoughts.

The birth of the New Year is a time when men and women are in a joyful mood; happy that the old with its cares and crosses, is over, and hopeful of future good days, and successful achievements; or glad because of the prosperity and pleasure which the old had brought in its train, and because of the hope that for another year fortune will smile favourably on their lives. The retrospect may or may not be pleasant, nor may the prospect be bright, yet the beginning of the year is a milestone in one's life-journey which bears an eloquent inscription. Time is swiftly fleeting; year after year we press onward to the goal, and at this season we arrive at a point from which our course can be surveyed. The past is of moment to us; from its influence it would be difficult to rid ourselves even should it be desirable to do so. Seed that has been sown will grow and will yield fruit, be it for good or evil. How important then, that the right should prevail over the wrong, in our lives; that the mistakes of the past be not repeated, and that their influence should, as much as possible, be minimized. But on the threshold of the New Year, it is with the year before them that mankind has most to do. Therein lies hope. Therein lies opportunity. From the past are to be derived lessons for application now and in the future. The marvellous possibilities of life are still available, let them be pursued with determination and many of them will surely be realized.

We cannot part with the Old Year without wishing it a regretful good-bye. How many things to be thankful for during the last twelve months? The good hand of Providence has been manifested to the country, the church, and to the homes. Reasonable prosperity and success have been vouchsafed in civil and religious affairs. "Onward" has been the motto of the year now gone, may its verification characterize the year now upon us. In this spirit of thankfulness and of hope the PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW extends to all its readers the hearty greetings of the season—A HAPPY, GUID NEW YEAR.

Missions and Winter Supply.

REV. A. FINDLAY, Superintendent of Missions, in his last report to the H. M. C. of the General Assembly states that he asked all students in the mission field

under his charge last summer whether they would not be willing to remain in the field all winter, and take the summer session in Winnipeg, and that they all, with one exception asked to be excused. The experience of the Superintendent in Western Canada it would appear, is similar. As the result of this refusal, a large number of missions are this winter closed, or they are supplied in part by men without experience and without training. We have seen it stated that there are about 300 students studying for the ministry of our church, in Montreal, Kingston, and Toronto, and that there are only about 600 congregations all told in the Province of Quebec and Ontario, where these colleges are located. We leave Morin College out of the reckoning, for its graduates are not many. Granted that 300 students are to be graduated during the next six years, where are they to get settlements? In many towns in Ontario congregations have been uniting. Paris, Ingersoll, Teeswater, Durham, Caledonia, Kincardine, Mount Forest, and the rest are examples; and this process is not at an end yet. Port Hope, Huntingdon, and at least a score of other congregations will likely follow suit ere long and with the number of congregations in these provinces nearly stationary, and the ratio of increase in students rising each year; the question is sure to recur, where are men to find employment if the mission field is shunned? Are our Colleges to become largely sources of supply for American pulpits? Are we as a Church going to help swell the exodus to our Southern neighbours? Let any one examine the Calendars of our Colleges, and mark how many of the graduates are settled in the United States already and he will not think these words too strong. And if it is found that we are educating men beyond any possible need, it is not likely that our people will respond very freely to any appeals made for increased college accommodation or more munificent endowments as they have done in the past.

We believe, however, that for years to come, our present mission fields could be made to absorb all the surplus men the Church can turn out. These fields, however, must be continuously supplied, that their development may be more rapid. There are fields on the list now, that for years have shown no growth, not because they are incapable of growth, but because the gain in summer is lost in winter. In 1884 there were twenty-one congregations in the Presbytery of Barrie, and but twenty-nine in 1893, and yet the Presbytery gave only one congregation, if we mistake, not to form the Presbytery of Algoma. In these nine years the missions increased from seventeen to thirty-nine. Of the 39 fields more than one third were unsupplied last winter. The number in Western Canada by the report of 1893 that received supply only half the year was over thirty, and judging from the appeals made by Dr. Robertson, through the press, the state of things this winter is not any better. There is another aspect to this question. Dr. Torrance, in his report to the General Assembly, states that the net increase in communicants, over all the church, last year, was 8,681 and that of these 4,152 were west of Lake Superior, leaving only 4,529 east of Lake Superior. This is an increase for the east of less than three per cent for the year. How much have our silent Sabbaths in the mission field, and our long vacancies in congregations, contributed to this unsatisfactory result? Since the General Assembly has so emphatically set the seal of