

Canada, as is also temperance as a coercive thing, prohibition of the liquor traffic, which is now the rule in some fifteen counties in Ontario. All these things fill our hearts with hope for our beloved Canada as the year draws near its close.

As we cast our eyes abroad, hopeful signs meet us on every side. In the United States the work of purifying the fountains of public life is progressing slowly, and the South is being reconciled to its elder brother the North. In Britain political leaders are beginning to say that the question of the disestablishment of the English and Scotch Churches must be faced and settled before the century is much older. France is slowly uncoiling from its throat the folds of the ultramontane constrictor, and asserting its capacity for a republic. The eastern war is progressing fast enough to frighten Turkey into an abandonment of the Koran as the foundation of the political fabric, and slow enough to humble Russia and moderate its aspirations. India is passing through a fearful discipline which God will no doubt order for its advancement as one of his great nations. Africa, by the discoveries of Cameron and Stanley, has now a door open from the west to its great and strong heart as well as from the north, south and east.

In every direction there are openings for the Gospel, and on the ear of Christendom is falling, from various quarters, the Macedonian cry, "Come over and help us." In these circumstances we close the year 1877.

The year 1878 will be a year of important events, as far as men can judge. It will be the aim of the CHRISTIAN MONTHLY (with some improvements in arrangement and material) to fulfil, as far as space permits, and ability, the function of recording and reviewing the *Christian Thought*, *Christian Life*, and *Christian Work* of the incoming year, seeking in things essential, unity; in things indifferent, liberty; and in all things charity.

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