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THE OUTLOOK : SOME SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

BY THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF.

Perpetual vigilance is not only the price of liberty, but the condition of all true intelligence and progress. God made the time-worlds as well as the space-worlds : in the ages as well as in the stars He has a plan, and only he who watches while he prays discerns the signs of the times, sees the plan of God, and falls into line with the march of God's obedient hosts.

If the best chronology is taken as our standard, this new year is not 1896, but 1900, of the Christian era, and marks the closing year of the century. It is well known among students of chronology that the familiar letters "A.D." do not originally stand for *Anno Domini*, but for *Aera Dionysii*, the era of Dionysius, surnamed Exiguus, the Little, from his small stature. This Roman abbot, originally from Scythia, who died in his monastery in 540 A.D., was a man of great erudition, and, among other labors, carried on in chronology researches which gave him great celebrity. To this man, who died in the reign of Justinian, is traced the method of reckoning the Christian era which, since the eighth century, has been, by so-called Christian nations, universally adopted, and which fixes the year of the Incarnation at the 754th year of Rome.

More careful computations, reckoning from at least six different points of observation, like converging paths all lead to one conclusion, that an error of at least *four years* has occurred : the *Dionysian era*, and that the Incarnation must date back to the year 749 from the founding of Rome, which would, according to the current reckoning, be 4 B.C.

For example, as the birth of Christ was certainly previous to the death of Herod the Great, which was just before the Passover, in the year 750 A.U., the year of the nativity cannot have been later than 749 A.U.

Again, John the Baptist entered on his ministry in the fifteenth year of Tiberius, which, reckoning from the latter's co-regency, would put the Baptist's birth in the year 748 A.U., or early in the next year ; and, as