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The Closing Year.

The years roll on with swift and steady pace. We are making history whether we will or not. We cannot sit still in this great and glorious Universe where God, our Father, is ever working to bring to pass His purposes. For our own Church, the closing year has been one of deep peace and earnest work. No part of the church has fallen behind: no part but shows some progress. From month to month our own columns testify to the activity, the energy, the liberality of ministers and people. Colleges are being endowed, churches and manses built, new congregations organized, new missions opened, fresh ground broken. Our Assembly, our Synod and Presbyteries all show how deeply in earnest our Church is in the work the Master has given her to do. She cannot be too much in earnest. Aggressive evangelism is the condition of a healthy and happy existence. Our Church, as a united church, is now over thirteen years old, and each year has added strength to the conviction that the union was from the Lord. It has been the means of widening the church's sphere of usefulness, increasing her influence for good at home, and enabling her to enter with redoubled energy upon the heathen field. Looking back one year or thirteen years, we find

ground enough to thank God and take courage. The Church is true to her calling; the people show a healthy growth in liberality; the Gospel in its purity is preached from our pulpits; multitudes respond to the Gospel call. That the coming year may be a year of still more abundant blessing,—that the Presbyterian Church in Canada and all her sister Churches may have peace and prosperity is our ardent prayer.

This has been a memorable year for the Presbyterian Church. It is the two hundredth anniversary of the "Glorious Revolution of 1688." In summer, a Presbyterian Council assembled in which were representatives from nearly every Presbyterian Church in Christendom. A Union of Presbyterians has been formed in Brazil and in Japan, and negotiations are in progress elsewhere. Thus the old barriers are being removed, and the Lord is preparing His Church for increased labours,—perhaps for increased suffering.—It is the three hundredth anniversary of the defeat of the Invincible "Armada" which was intended to sweep away every vestige of Protestantism and liberty out of the British Isles, and to bring the people into obedience to the Pope, by the thumb-screw and the rack, the stake and the gallows. The Lord blew, and they were scattered. It becomes us this year to note the progress of our Church since the date of the Armada, and especially since the Revolution of 1688.