

The CANADIAN Epworth Era

Immortality Brought to Light.

HOPE of immortality never painted a rainbow of promise on pagan tears. It never engraved a motto of hope on a pagan tombstone. There are isolated verses in the Old Testament which indicate that occasional prophets of Israel, in moments of supreme inspiration, experienced a momentary hope respecting the future; but these isolated utterances are like gleams of sunshine breaking through a tempestuous sky, while the wind still sweeps through the skeleton trees, and the rain still falls in dreary torrents. There is not a patch of blue sky—no, not even in the Psalms of sanguine David, or the vision of inspired Isaiah. Christ's resurrection brought life and immortality to light. It converted the fabric of a dream into a historic reality; it transformed a despairing hope into a calm assurance. To the believer in Christ's resurrection, immortality is no longer a hope. He looks in through the open door and sees the world of light beyond. Once every voyager on the unknown sea was a Columbus, setting sail for he knew not what. Now every Christian voyager is an emigrant starting out for an Eldorado; knowing that it exists, only not knowing what wealth of possibilities it contains. "For now is Christ risen, and become the first fruits of them that slept."—*Lyman Abbott, D.D.*