

THE WORLD'S OUTLOOK.

THE PROGRESS OF RIGHT.

The world's outlook is steadily growing brighter. The power of evil is growing less and the influence of good becoming ever stronger. Though far, far, from its goal, earth is tending heavenward. "Thy Kingdom Come" is receiving constant answer along two lines, viz. the spread of the Gospel in the heathen world, and the strengthening of that Kingdom in Christian and civilized lands. A review of the former would be a survey of missions, with ever brightening outlook. The latter may for convenience be divided into two parts, the extension of the Christian Church and the growing power of right in the laws and customs of the world. The following remarks refer more especially to this last phase of "The World's Outlook."

"The kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness and peace." These two may be included in righteousness, for where righteousness is there is peace, and so far as communities and nations are concerned righteousness is making progress. Oppressions and wrongs are being pointed out and resisted and overcome more fully and completely with each passing year.

Much of wrong yet remains but there is scarce a wrong which men suffer at the hands of their fellowmen to-day, but was greater far not many years ago, while wrongs that were have wholly disappeared. The time is not very far past when among the nations in the van of progress, Great Britain and the United States, men and women were hung for petty theft and innocent people burned on a charge of witchcraft, while in cases far more numerous than at present might made right. One has only to study the laws and life of Britain for the century, and learn the wrongs that once were legal and the sins that were common, to see how great the advance in righteousness to-day.

Peace too has progressed. During the past twenty years the nations have passed

in peace through testing times that not very long ago would have led to war.

Not only so but the very provocations to war have resulted in more solid and enduring peace. The latest and most marked illustration of such a result is that between Britain and the United States. A year ago the Venezuelan scare brought anxiety to many. Not only has it passed away but it has led to the present proposed treaty of arbitration between these two great peoples, which without that scare would probably not have been made for some time to come. Thus it is that God makes the wrath of man to praise Him, and the spirit of strife to further the ends of righteousness and peace.

Another illustration of the same principle is seen in Canada. A year ago the Manitoba School question, with its strife of race and creed, made many anxious for our country's weal. But the very strife has been the means of leading the French Roman Catholics of Canada to think and act as never before; to assert their civil rights and refuse to blindly rest in the submissive ignorance to which the hierarchy would doom them. They have themselves taken up the struggle for their rights and Protestants can look on with confidence that manhood against priestcraft will win the day.

The above outlook may seem unduly bright. It is certainly not in accord with much of present day prophecy. Many can see nought but "breakers ahead." Two great subjects, strife between nations and between classes, war national and social, furnish text and theme for much gruesome foreboding. Nations are armed and arming as never before: the struggle between capital and labor, between class and class, seems growing more intense, and taking on ever new phases; and prophets of evil find in these two thunder clouds that hang on the horizon material in plenty to keep the fearful in unrest. Press and platform and pulpit sometimes harrow hearers and readers with ominous predictions of impending ill and make timid people wish