

1881



1895

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" THIS IS THE VICTORY, EVEN OUR FAITH."

N.B.—Communications for this Department post-marked after the 18th of the month will appear in following month.

N.B.—All subscriptions for the OUTLOOK must be sent to the Methodist Mission Rooms, Toronto.

N.B.—Certificates of Life Membership may be obtained by addressing Miss Ogden, Room 20, Wesley Buildings.

Editorial Notes.

WE wish each reader of the OUTLOOK, in the broadest, fullest sense of the term, a very happy New Year. Happy, because spent in tender thought and ministry for others, your motive power, for such "the love of Christ constraineth." Life is so short—let us endeavor to get the very best out of it as we pass along—why not make this year the red-letter year of your existence, by thinking, praying, working and living for those upon whose lives sombre shadows rest?

NOT as a mere echo from the Galilean shore should Christ's question to Peter—"Lovest thou me more than these"—come to us, but as a living, potential power actuating us to *practically* answer, "Lord, thou knowest that I love thee." It may be that over and over again, as we have read of that tender scene enacted on the shores of Tiberias, with the grey of the early dawn lighting up alike the swarthy faces of the fisherman disciples and the kingly face of the risen Lord, our hearts have echoed Peter's answer, "Lord, thou knowest that I love thee." And yet—and yet is this love, of which we have spoken so confidently, strong enough and deep enough to bear the test of sacrifice for His sake?

No doubt many of you are familiar with the wonderful incident which transpired this past October at the Convention of the Christian and Missionary Alliance, which convened in New York. We are told that the burden of the immediate need of doing "greater things" for heathendom pressed in such a weighty manner upon this convention, that in response to a quiet suggestion from one of the workers that those wishing to exchange their gold watches for less expensive ones, or give of other articles of jewelry for the cause of missions, might be allowed to do so, immediately an extraordinary outpouring of watches, jewels and other treasures upon the missionary altar was spontaneously begun and continued until the entire plan of the meeting had to be set aside. This happened on Friday evening, but on the closing Sabbath the blessing of sacrificing for others reached a higher flood-tide, when Dr. A. T. Pierson—whose name has become a synonym for "labors more abundant" in the cause of missions—rose, and proposed "that they, the members of the Missionary Alliance, should solemnly undertake to increase the income of the Society during the coming year to \$200,000, and have 300 missionaries on the field by the close of the next year."

And then, we are told, at once the offerings began, one after another rising and offering various amounts, ranging from one dollar to four thousand—some contributing out of their penury, others of their abundance. Before the day ended, \$50,000 was pledged, and the free-will offering is still going on. Diamonds, watches and other jewelry are still being emptied into the Lord's treasury. To those who have stood this test Peter's reply means no empty, idle praise, but a living experience.

To us is accorded the same privilege of showing forth our love for Him by self-sacrificing deeds for "the least of these," knowing that it will be accepted as done directly unto Him.

As you will notice, the subject of prayer for this month is "That missionaries, officers, members and converts may surrender themselves to God's will and direction" (John xv. 14; Acts. ii. 18). It does not seem a hard condition, does it, to be God-guided, God-directed? A most precious reward is offered to those obeying. "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you." To think that we, full of imperfections and stained with earth's dross, may enter