

though several of his classmates have made their mark he might almost have been said to be without a peer. His pastorate was short but successful. As a teacher he was lucid and pointed, possessed of a powerful illustrative faculty and accuracy of thought and expression which marked his strongly logical and philosophic mind.

In 1892, after the Assembly had decided to hold a summer session at Winnipeg, Prof. Thompson was one of the first to offer his services. In spite of his delicate health he again lectured during the summer session of 1894, and delivered many discourses from city and country pulpits which will long remain fresh in the minds of those who heard them.

The church will miss the self-denying labors of such a man. His place will be hard to fill but, blessed be His Holy Name who has seen fit to call him to his reward, her work will not cease, but prosper, until the harvest is gathered in and He shall have declared that "Time shall be no more."

The Eastern Question:—

The eye of the world is on China; its gaze is turned eastward. The hugest nation of the Orient is being taught its letters, and that under the tutelage of a nation until recently comparatively obscure and insignificant. It is a conflict between eastern and western ideas, between ancient barbarity and modern science, and the contest is one not difficult to umpire. The Chinaman clings to antiquity, to ancient forms and pristine customs, and trusts in mere numbers and doggedness, rather than in a well-trained, patriotic soldiery and good generalship. The amphibious Japs are demonstrating in the East what Britain demonstrated in the West, and what Greece and Spain taught the ancient and mediaeval world, that the loyalty of its subjects is the corner-stone of a nation. Like cattle the Chinese

have been herded into the ranks, only to stand cowardly and cringingly before the enemy, to be routed in the first onslaught. The Japanese, on the other hand, have been well disciplined; their officers born to command; their tactics modern, and their war-appliances represent the latest achievements of military science. Who could not predict the result?

But the situation may be viewed in another aspect. While the scientific investigator is studying the efficiency of military contrivances and marine inventions as they are being employed in actual war operations; while the statesman is looking on from the standpoint of nations, apprehensive lest the balance of power may in any degree be disturbed; while nation vies with nation and power with power in selfish rivalry and keeps its war-ships hovering near, ready to seize any prize that may offer; we turn our eyes thitherward in the interests of humanity and Christian progress and ask, what will be the outcome? We see the exclusiveness of the Chinese crumbling away. We see the superiority of western ideas to eastern vindicated, and we ask, whereto shall this lead? Shall the religion under whose influence western ideas as interpreted in modern scientific achievements, have gained such an ascendancy over eastern, win a readier access there? This certainly is a crisis in the Orient—the Orient that is so bound up in our minds with missionary enterprise. It is, moreover, a crisis in missions. The old faiths are being undermined; their massive structures are beginning to totter; and even as this ancient empire is succumbing to its smaller but progressive rival, so we feign take its overthrow as prophetic of the surrender of heathen darkness to the influences of Gospel light. Even now we see the dim glimmerings of the dawn streaming over the hills of eastern darkness and superstition—the Sun of Righteousness arising with healing in His wing.