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THE OUTLOOK FOR THE NEW CENTURY.

The new century implies older ones ; times passed away ; generations, possibly ages gone. It implies work done, success achieved, lessons learned. The position and condition of affairs to-day and the prospect for years to come, are largely the result of the forces, movements, diversions, resistances and stagnations of eras almost forgotten. The Bible, the Book of God, the record of divine revelation to the sons of men from Adam to Moses, from Moses to Ezra, from Ezra to John, has, by the Father's power, wisdom and love, climbed the rough steepes of human experience and history ; and now with an eye undimmed, a strength undiminished, and a holy purpose unabated, casts a forward look over areas ever broadening and highways ever lengthening, to the ultimate and universal triumph of truth, and the realization of its radiant promise and hope—the establishment of the kingdom of God among men,—even as our Parliaments and Courts are the growth of an ancient day and the present pledge of civil and religious liberty.

The scope and completeness of any outlook depends (1) upon the view-point, the standing ground, the *πρυτανία*, the eminence from which the telescope sweeps the circle of the earth and the arch of the sky ; (2) the scenery, the landscape under view ; (3) the vigor of sight, the power of vision ; (4) the flooding or the failing light ; (5) the clearness of the medium.

First. The vantage ground, the view-point of our present outlook is solid and lofty, not crumbling at the base, not walled in by higher eminences. We have (1) the general consensus of the Church upon the essential doctrines of the Christian religion. The age of controversy has largely gone by ; the doctrines and creeds are fairly well settled, and the spirit and temper of the times are for action. Not that controversy, in such a world as this, has not had its place. Controversy has settled our positions and our direction of advance. We would have no British Empire as it is but for Gibraltar, and Malta, and Halifax, and Hong Kong, and Khyber Pass. (2) Infidelity, Rationalism, Materialism, Pantheism and their criticisms are pretty well driven from the field. (3) The improvements in printing fur-