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Looking Before Us.

THE Church must always have an eye to the future. Past and present are the seed of the future and must have a constant reference to it. As the mighty river cannot pause in its course but pour downward and press onward and still onward to the sea, so the Church must never stagnate in the swamps and morasses and quagmires of idleness, selfishness, vain glory, or unbelief. Progress is the very law of her being. She cannot fold her clean hands and say, "I have attained to the summit of my desire; I have finished the work God gave me to do." Christ alone was privileged to exclaim, "It is finished," the work of atonement is complete. The sacrifice is offered, the blood shed, the ransom paid; Christ needs no more to suffer or die. But the Church, and every member of it, must work on, work ever, until the rest of heaven is reached. It will not do, therefore, to say, our Church has done enough for colleges, raised enough money for them, equipped them sufficiently, sent enough young men to them. It will not do to say that we have candidates enough for the office of the ministry. It is equally impossible to "rest and be thankful" with regard to ministerial support. Our duty as a Church is to save ourselves from a "scandalous ministry" by making adequate provision for the temporal wants of those who minister at the altar." The "minimum" of five years ago will not do to-day; nor will that of to-day serve five years hence.

It will not do to think that we are doing enough for home mission work. Never let us forget the revelations of the late census. There are tens of thousands of nominal Presbyterians in this Dominion who are not connected with any of our congregations—

literally tens of thousands. Now, ought we not to look forward eagerly to the time when all our people shall be duly shepherded and when we can make some advances on the mass of non-church-goers generally. It is a most serious matter for us as a church that so great a multitude of our people should lie outside of our pastoral care. Manitoba and the other great Provinces of the North-West have claims upon us which we cannot too generously recognize; but the older Provinces are not less to be cared for. It is in the older Provinces that there are tens of thousands of our people beyond the limits of our congregations.

It will not do to conclude that our growth as a Church *should* be less rapid than the growth of the denominations alongside of us. Why should we have less zeal for the glory of God, less eagerness for the salvation of the lost? If others do well! let us do still better. What hinders us? Probably special hindrances could be pointed out in every community; but God is strong enough to overcome in us and through every obstacle. It will not do to say that we are doing enough for foreign missions. The work of God in this world is in effect one work; the field is one; His people are one;

"One army of the living God,
One church above, beneath."

No land, no loneliest isle, is "foreign" in the estimation of Hlm who has purchased the world "and overpaid its value with his blood." Let us look forward then to doing more for Christ this year than in any past year. If each member and family will do a little more, congregations will show progress, and the result will tell upon the whole Church. We do not depreciate past effort; we look back upon it with gratitude and joy as a manifest proof that God has been with us. But the past