

# The Presbyterian Record.

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## THE OUTLOOK.

WHAT is it! That depends on point of view.

It is manyphased as the interests and occupations of men. To the merchant it is the trend of trade; to the farmer the prospects of harvest; to the wage-earner the outlook for paying work. To the miner the question usually means one thing, to the mariner, another, to the missionary, another. Asked of the starving persecuted Armenians, it means the prospect of food or life; to the Turk it is national existence. The sick scan the horizon for signs of health, while to the dying the outlook is the infinite beyond. Happy they who in the path of duty and of trust, "do with their might"—in the present—"what their hands find to do," and for the future, "commit their way unto the Lord," who maketh "all things work together for good to them that love Him."

One practical question for every reader of the RECORD, is, "The Outlook" during the coming autumn and winter, for the progress of the Lord's work, as carried on by the Presbyterian Church in Canada. That work is manifold, from individual heart and life to church and mission field, and the answer is no uncertain secret of the future. It depends in some measure upon every child in home or Sabbath school, upon all our young people in, or out of, the various Societies, upon each adherent and member of the church, upon teachers, elders, ministers and missionaries. If each is faithful, and in proportion as each is faithful, God will bless.

Of the many points suggested we mention but two, in regard to our work in, and by, our Church.

1 So far as possible our work and worship should be connected with the church and congregation with which we are associated. It may be more pleasant, it may sound more broadly liberal, to "board round," but the object should not be self-pleasing but Christ's will and work.

The soldier does not best serve his queen and country who goes round the regiments, but who, while interested in all, is most faithful in his own; and the child, or man, or woman, does the

best Christian work who makes choice of some one company, Sabbath school, congregation, of Christ's people; and, while praying earnestly for all, works most faithfully in that one. The "rounder" injures himself, sets a bad example to others, and discourages his pastor and other workers, while his wandering visits elsewhere carry neither cheer nor help.

2. The other point is that not only our work and worship, but our *giving*, should be through our own church. Each loyal member holds himself responsible, in his measure, for the work which is doing in that church. Each one should think of the College work, as *mine*; of Home Mission work, from Atlantic to Pacific, as *mine*; of Foreign Mission work in the New Hebrides, Trinidad, India, China, as *mine*, for which I am responsible.

Too often the responsibility is put upon "the Church." What is "the Church?" Each true member should say of it as Napoleon did of the state, "*cest moi*."

During the coming summer and winter, as heretofore, there will be appeals for missions which others are carrying on. Remember that the first duty is the great work of our own Church; remember the needs of that work; and remember, that, as the best watchman is he who is most vigilant at his own post, while others guard theirs; so he best serves Christ who is most faithful to his own special trust.

It is in the department of Foreign Missions that applications for aid most frequently come. But our people would do well to remember that, on the whole, our own Missions have been as generally and solidly and steadily successful as those of any Society in the world; that our Foreign Mission Funds, East and West, are in need of all they can possibly get this year; and that for these and these only are we responsible. We should pray earnestly for all, but we cannot do even this, if we are not doing our part in the work that "our hands find to do," in supporting *first* the Missions of our own Church.

Thus may "the outlook" for the coming months and year be made bright, not only with hope but with a ripening into rich fruition.