

Editor's Page

Looking Forward—*Nisi Dominus Frustra*

In all phases of human activity it is natural to look forward in the first months of a year. With advancing life, however, men are less disposed to forecast the future, and more concerned to live a season or a day at a time. Happy they who find honest satisfaction in their measure of service in the present; with yet enough lacking in their attainments to keep effort and aspiration earnest.

In ordinary times, humanity's limitations and the uncertainty that encircles all earthly agencies and experiences, bring home the truth *nisi Dominus frustra*. Men may rise early and sit late and exercise brain and hand and heart, but no project of human ambition is beyond the ken and control of the Architect of the Universe. Among men much may be left to man's free will, but the final issues rest with God; and a Kaiser or King may have to learn in his personal experience, as truly as the humblest of his subjects—"Except the Lord be with us, we strive in vain." Is not that, indeed, the lesson every soul must learn, soon or late, when all earth's trappings are seen in their true proportion to *life*?

In these days, of all days, it should be unnecessary to emphasise that truth. For, if individual souls, families, and nations are, in different ways, reminded by life's experience that a righteous God is supreme, nearly the whole world is at this time looking for a demonstration or revelation of His over-ruling power. Events are happening, or perhaps we should rather say tragedies are being enacted which shall make these blood-red-letter days in the history of the human race; and which make many men question if "God's in His Heaven," and if all *can* be "well with the world?"

But just as many men, in all their reckonings in the pride of life, seem to forget or ignore the Supreme Lord, so too, others may think of Him and His influence in their lives daily, without in any way parading or proclaiming in words their religion and their faith. The silence of some souls concerning life's relationships, human and divine, is in proportion to the value placed upon them. Affection may be too deep for superficial display, and the homage of the heart may be expressed in worship without words. But in all life's experiences throughout the days and years it will be well for us to remember *nisi Dominus frustra*—"Unless the Lord be with us, we labour in vain."