

THE CANADA CHRISTIAN MONTHLY.

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Editorial.

ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-FIVE.

The year on which we enter this month is the last year of the third quarter of this century. It is in fact the last year of a remarkable quarter of a remarkable century.

The first quarter of this century was a time of *war* and much misery to the people in almost all the countries of Europe. Napoleon kept the world in such a condition of conflict and unrest that few Christian enterprises of any magnitude were planned or executed for mankind. The second quarter of this century was a time of *peace* and useful reforms in the State; Catholic emancipation was granted, the Reform Bill was passed, and slaves set free in all the British possessions. The third quarter of this century has been a time of *scrutiny* and searching into the foundations of things. The right of the Southern States to extend slavery in the Union was called in question and denied: so also was the right of the Pope to his temporal throne, and the right of France to govern Europe. Under the keen, searching glance of this spirit, science has had anew to examine its inductions, philosophy its axioms, the churches their creeds, and all Christians their Bibles. Much that men cherished fondly as truth in all departments of thought, must needs be given up, and much that men disliked has fought its way to the front as the truth of God.

Indeed, the quarter of century which closes with this year looks very much like what is seen on board a man-of-war when the order has been given to clear the deck for action. It is a scene of bustle, confusion, noise, excitement, hope, and fear; but all this is necessary. Useless weapons must be laid aside, useful ones must be prepared and brought into position, laggards must be stimulated, cowards must be encouraged, and everyone must know his place in the conflict, and what is expected of him. It is something like this that has been going on for the last twenty-five years.

We may therefore expect that the closing quarter of this century on which the world enters next year, will be a time of *action* and fruitful exertion in all