

THE PROBLEM OF THE WEST.

"Behold, I have set the land before you: go in and possess the land."

—Deuteronomy, 1: 8.

I WOULD endeavour very briefly and simply, as I understand it, to state the problem of our Canadian missionary field—the problem of the West—and, in order to do this, I must eliminate a very great deal that might properly come within the scope of my subject.

Leave out all those great principles that lie at the foundation of all missionary work, the Lord's last great command, "Go into all the world: make disciples of all nations, and preach the gospel to every creature." Leave out the mission and constitution of the church itself, which are essentially of a missionary character. Leave out the appalling need of the world where millions and hundreds of millions of our fellow-men are in the darkness and the shadow of death. Leave out the ample means that lie in the hands of Christian people—means in money and in agents—to carry out the Lord's command and to fulfil the essential mission of the Church. Leave out all those fundamental principles that lie as the basis of all missionary work. And, in thinking of our Canadian missionary field, leave out nine-tenths of that. You are to imagine