

# THE CANADA CHRISTIAN MONTHLY.

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## EDITORIAL.

### THE FOUR PLANKS.

The Christian Churches of our day are entering on a new era of work. They are called upon to face new forms of unbelief, but, what is of more importance, they are called upon also to face work for Christ on a scale that may, without any exaggeration, be called stupendous. It is not simply that our Churches are loudly called upon to maintain their ground *at home*, and widen it; but, *abroad* the field that is now opening up, as this century draws towards its close, is nothing less than the *world* in the widest and fullest sense of the term.

#### A WIDENING HORIZON.

Into the very heart of China step by step missionaries can now find their way. India's settling down, we hope, to a spirit of peace, contented loyalty and attachment to our Queen, as the result of our Prince's visit, will be henceforward more favourably disposed to welcome English ideas, English literature, and we trust also, English Missionaries of the Cross. Turkey, sick even unto death, must either be laid in that grave into which have descended the great empires of antiquity, or it must open its mouth wide to receive from Christian Mis-

sionaries that Bread of Life, without which there is no enduring national existence to any people. Africa, traversed from north to south by Livingstone, and now crossed from east to west by Cameron, is stretching out its arms to God and sending to us across its sandy plains the Macedonian cry, "*Come over and help us.*" Never, we may safely say, since first Christ commissioned the Apostles, was there a wider field open to missions than we now see opening on every side of us; nor was there ever heard a more piteous cry for help than now falls on the ears of our slumbering Churches.

#### BASIS OF OPERATION.

In view of the widening field, and the urgent wants of perishing millions who have never yet seen the face of a missionary, there is a necessity that Christians should re-consider their basis of operation, the platform on which they are standing and the planks in it. The work is heavy; where is the power to grapple with it? The resistance to be overcome is nothing less than half a world unconverted; where is our lever and fulcrum? The campaign is opening up on a scale that fills the mind with awe. Where are our men and where are the