

## THE OLD AND THE NEW YEAR.

—————"I thought on all the grave  
Had buried since the infant year began:  
What dreams, what agonies, untold,  
Dead as the hearts whose hopes they once turmoiled,  
Lay motionless and mute."

Montgomery.

ANOTHER year is added to the past—a year which has been crowded with events of great importance, to Canada, to the Canadian people, and to the world.

Another year! Brief as are the words, and brief as the term is which they comprise, of how much of human joy and of human sorrow have they been the witness! How many, who, with bright prospects and brighter hopes, entered upon it, are now crumbling in the dust, life and hope and cheerful anticipations gone!—the world, with all its cares and happiness, its joys and sorrows, no more for them! How many are there who began it bowed down with anguish, who have since found an elixir for their sorrow at the hands of him who is at the same time the Destroyer and the Consoler, TIME!

All is change, yesterday, today and tomorrow resemble each other only in their uncertainty. We know what is borne on the present hour, but there is no man among us who can tell "what a day will bring forth!"

The ending of one year and the beginning of another—the starting point of Time—is a season meet for calm and healthful reflection. It reminds us of what, though it be written in every sunbeam, we forget. It reminds us of the fleetness with which Time escapes us—of the hours we suffer to run to waste—of the moments we squander and cast away, careless of the fact that of these moments is made up the sum of human life.

We are, however, also reminded by the season of the pleasant *re-unions* of which it is the harbinger and cause. With the opening of the year, ties of friendship which have been relaxed, are rebound and strengthened anew. It is a season for the interchange of friendly greetings, and heart-born prayers from each for happiness to the other. It is the season of felicitations and congratulations—of mutual feelings and expressions of cordiality and good will.

We avail ourselves of the occasion heartily to wish to all who read the *Garland* a pre-eminently "happy New-Year," and a plentiful supply of every good thing—of everything that tends to peace and happiness on earth, and to greater peace and happiness when the earth is nothing.

For upwards of three years we have experienced proofs of public indulgence and generosity— for upwards of three years we have humbly but earnestly endeavoured to deserve it—and though we have often felt how little we had achieved to earn the favour shewn us, we are not without a consciousness that more than could have been anticipated has been done—not by ourselves, but by those whose talents have filled our pages with matter of interest and value, almost every line of which has been such as to elicit the praise of those whose praise is most acceptable, because thoughtfully, voluntarily and sincerely given. Our own labours have been comparatively nothing. We have only been the ministers by which rich thoughts have become public property, and instead of affording pleasure only to those with whom they were born, they have diffused the same grateful feeling through the breasts of thousands.

The season is one of gratulation. It is also one for the expression of gratitude; and where it is so eminently due, we make no apology for publicly expressing in. To the contributors to the pages of the *Garland*—the gifted authors of almost all that for upwards of three years have imparted to it a character for chasteness, originality and elegance, we tender our earnest thanks, and a cordial, perhaps a selfish wish, that they may continue to devote a portion of their time, and of the talents with which Providence has endowed them, to minister through the pages of the *Garland*, to the better and holier sympathies of our common nature, and to the enjoyment and happiness of the Canadian world.

To them and to the public, whose taste and judgment have appreciated their disinterested and generous labours, we again cordially wish a pleasant and "happy New-Year."