

President Lincoln once wrote:—"God is the only being who has time enough, but a prudent man who knows how to seize occasions can commonly make a shift to find as much as he needs."

Measure man's short lifetime by Christmas-tides as measuring points, the years of our pilgrimage are not many. Friend, next Christmas, where and how do you expect to spend it? What did you do with the last? How many more do you anticipate to enjoy on earth? The last tide of hope, mercy and opportunity, may even now be receding. Escape for your life the Gospel waves seem to say as they roll on the shores of time. Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. Come to Jesus, come to Jesus now, or else you must come in the judgment, and then go away forever, forever.

Death asks for no man's leave,  
But lifts the latch, and enters, and sits down.

The year 1886 has almost worn itself out, and as certainly the steady flight of time wears us away. Recorded years mean less and less for us. Should 1887 in full measure be meted out, it will but shorten the time to come. Vain and foolish to waste on trifling cares, and foolish pleasures, the quickly passing years. When true, present, and lasting happiness comes in the consciousness of duties fulfilled and God's righteous saving word obeyed.

Then the knell of passing years need cause no alarm. The knell of death, though more staid and solemn, may waken heart throbs and gladness. Yea, may sound more sweetly than the merry joyous peal of Christmas bells. The measured beat, saith to the tired pilgrim, there is rest for the weary. Child come home, come home. The conflict of time is ending. Time is fleeing. The unmeasurable bliss of eternity is coming. It is thine forever, forever, forever.  
**1886, GOOD-BYE! 1887, WELCOME!**

The tidings of great joy link the passing present to a glad future. Jesus Christ came unto the world to seek and to save the lost. Christmas should waken glad and serious thoughts.

### Ribbon of Blue, or Temperance Notes.



**B**EWARE! Why? Of what? Drink and its fascination and flatteries. Touch not, taste not, handle not. Prevent, prohibit by all lawful and possible means the further spread of this wild fire of hell. It is evil spirit, of a truth, and men who have not by long habit stifled conscience, grow alarmed when they note its destructive power. Even heathens and savages, who love bloodshed and have not the gospel light, cry out in fear and terror when they see the vile spirit of the still, crushing and torturing in crueler forms than their native savagery ever knew. To prove this point, that RUM IS RUIN everywhere, we quote from the appeal of a Mohammedan Chief on the Niger, Africa. He sent to Bishop Crowther, imploring him to prevent the sale of intoxicants among his people. He says:

"It is no long subject. It is about *barasa* (rum), *barasa*, *barasa*, *barasa*. My God! it has ruined our land; it has very, very much ruined our people, so that our people have become foolish. I have made a law that no one may buy or sell it, and that every one who is caught in selling it, his house shall be

broken up; and that every one who is found drunk shall be killed; and have said to all Christian merchants that they may deal in everything except *barasa*." He goes on to beseech the bishop to help him, so that he can not only make these laws, but have them obeyed. "For God's sake, and the prophet's sake, whom He has sent, the bishop must help us in this *barasa*."

Our blood is stirred when we hear of savages slaying and eating our missionaries. But should not our souls be stirred, as we have facts and figures about this abominable, diabolical traffic. The beautiful, wonderful Congo, is a highway to the heart of bleeding Africa. The estimated population of the Congo is 43,000,000. Already the lower river is cursed, and cursed bitterly with the meanest and vilest forms of intoxicating drinks.

We again quote a few facts and figures to indicate the extent of this traffic. The exports of *spirits to Africa* from Great Britain, Germany, Portugal, and the United States, in about a year, amounted to nearly 9,000,000 gallons! And these gallons are multiplied many times before they are dealt out to the natives. One of the National African Company's steamers recently carried 25,000 cases of gin and rum for the supply of two factories only. Mr. Bentley says, "he has heard of 50,000 or 60,000 cases of gin as the annual sale of certain factories of the Dutch House." To save carriage expenses "pure alcohol" is sometimes used as an article of trade. Imagine the demoralization which is the effect of this enormous and most destructive trade. The shrewd trader reckons upon the opening up of the Congo as affording him a new field for his cruel greed. He will pit his casks of spirits against all other articles of trade, and believes he is sure to win. There is no insuperable difficulty in the way of the liquor traffic on this great river at present. It is a fair river. Shall its improved avenue for commerce be used to blight the ignorant millions along its shores? Men of Israel! Lovers of humanity, help! Let there be a loud and long protest, or Africa's untaught sons will curse us with a bitter curse. The fair fields for missionary toil will lie wasted and barren, open to none save the devouring foe.

Might we not rightly pray, from wicked and evil men (who make and sell intoxicating drinks) good Lord deliver us. If used in your house or family or anywhere you can control, please sign your names to prohibit and protest against its use.

By the grace of God, witness my hand,

BUDS AND BLOSSOMS have more than once sent out friendly greeting to those who are behind in their payment, and still the response is not as one would wish or expect. Faith saith, "the Lord will incline their hearts so that they will not wrong or rob you in this matter." Again we say please pay back subscriptions, or let us know why you cannot and do not. We are not unreasonable, and have learned a lesson in editorial patience; remember you are not helping the work by withholding what is due. Again we thank our friends for every kind word, and sincerely hope their efforts will greatly increase our circulation.