

ADIEU TO THE OLD YEAR.

Adieu, adieu departing year,
Thy transient reign is o'er ;
And with a soft and noiseless step
Thou'rt gliding from our shore ;
Yet pause one moment in thy flight,
The shadowy past to greet,
And say what scenes on Earth thou'st marked
In thy free course and fleet.

Thou'st seen the bright, green leaves come forth
To deck the forest bough,
And the pale wild-flower lift its cup
In the cool shades below ;
And thou hast seen both leaf and flower
Droop in the autumnal breeze,—
Would thou hadst marked no sadder change,
Departing year, than these !

Thou'st passed o'er many a happy home,
Around whose fireside bright,
Meek, reverent faces humbly bent
With prayerful words by night ;
Yet, over some, thou'st marked a change
Like blight and mildew fall ;—
Ah, woe to Earth, if thou hadst seen
Such changes visit all !

Thou'st passed along the battle plain
Where hosts conflicting met,
While booming gun, and flashing sword,
And deadly bayonet,