

in degree. It is well that the world and the things of the world should have a due regard. The great Creator has given it to man for that purpose. But let us keep a watchful guard upon ourselves. Let the farmer attend to his farm, and the merchant to his merchandise, but let them attend also to the one thing needful. Let them reflect that life is but a vapor, that this world is but a scene of probation, of preparation for another. Let them keep steadily and constantly before their mind that there is a God who ruleth over all, that the gospel is a reality and not a myth—that there is a future world—a life beyond the grave whose duration is eternity. Let them examine themselves at stated periods—and what period more appropriate or more solemn than the threshold of a new year. Call up forgotten duties and past follies, and make them the subject of prayerful thoughts, and rise up with a mind cleansed from the errors of the past, with a heart subdued from a sense of its own weakness, but with a spirit strengthened and refreshed with virtuous resolution, and full of love to God and humanity. Laying aside all pride and self-sufficiency—putting on the garment of repentance, trusting in the sacrifice of a risen Saviour—enter upon a fresh course, keeping the goal of salvation ever in view.

Are you young? Remember that age is not promised you, be therefore ever on the watch, never from your post; keep in subjection the passions and temptations which will daily and hourly assault you; “remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth.”

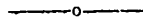
Have you reached the full vigor of manhood? Then let your watchfulness be doubled, for your responsibilities are greater, while your dangers are not less. To the aged, to the man of hoary hairs, we would say, watch on. Be not weary of being a disciple of Jesus. Though thy limbs tremble and thy speech fail, let your heart and soul be young, and pure and hopeful. The time is drawing nigh, the hour is at hand, live so that you may be able to welcome it as a friend, and embrace thy Saviour with joy unspeakable.

We have spoken only of those who have misspent their time, who have mistaken the true path and rushed blindly and wildly into that which leadeth to destruction. We ought now to devote a few paragraphs to the deliberately wicked, to those who shut their eyes to all that is good and noble in the world; who scorn God, his laws and his creatures; who give themselves up to their own evil desires; in whose hearts are found all malice and wickedness; who rejoice in evil—in violating God's laws and in breaking his commandments; whose course leadeth down to hell. Is not a new year—is not its virgin threshold a meet and solemn altar on which to lay the solemn vow of repentance, before which to kneel and pour out the earnest prayer for a better heart, to tread out every evil

desire, and to be washed and made clean in the blood of Christ, leaning on His gracious promise that there is forgiveness even for the chief of sinners? Close with the precious offer, fully and finally, and all will yet be well, both here and hereafter.

To the thoughtless and unconcerned, the devotee of idle gaiety and of what is mis-named pleasure, we would say, be wise in time, this is the hour to banish for ever from your heart the love of frivolous amusement and barren vanity. Dash to pieces the idols you have set up to folly, and henceforth live a life worthy of an immortal and accountable being;

Examine yourselves: purge away the dross which hangs about you, and is made up of vain show, of empty pride, of barren profession, of love of dress and idle ostentation, which steal the precious hours of time and give them to gauds and vanities, to the song and dance which bring no happiness, and the groaning board rich with every delicacy, but without genuine hospitality. Turn your back to this idle glare, and instead thereof open your eyes and your heart to the poverty and misfortune around you, feed the hungry, relieve the needy, clothe the naked, quietly, gratefully, secretly, letting not your right hand know what your left hand doeth, thanking God that he has made you his almoner. Examine yourselves, and see whether there is any hidden vice, any lurking weakness, any darling morsel, beneath your tongue, and away with it. Has envy poisoned your better feeling; have you slandered your neighbor; have you taken what was not your own; have you been guilty of deception in word or deed; have you neglected duty; have you starved your church, by giving it the mere shreds and husks of your ability? If you have, spread them fully before your conscience, and in your closest, and before your God abjure them all, and henceforth live as becomes a follower of the Lamb, full of love to God, and love to man. Welcome this New Year as a harbinger of glorious hopes for the future, as the child of virtuous and holy resolves, as the foundation of lofty principles and unyielding faith, resting on the everlasting truths of a blessed gospel.



STRAY WAIFS FROM A WAGGON.

EDUCATION, COLLEGES, NORMAL SCHOOLS,
PREACHING, UNION.

In the human family, youth, maturity, and old age, are the three divisions of earthly life. Each has thoughts, affections, sorrows and enjoyments peculiar to itself. In the first of these, a great amount of knowledge is acquired with marvellous rapidity, because the application of the child is intense, and its mind is impressible. A whole language is learned word by word with wonderful facility. A power of discriminating sounds, colors,