

PALM * BRANCH.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., FEBRUARY, 1899.

We have passed over the threshold of another year, and now we are walking out into its new, untried paths. What it shall hold for us, individually, will largely depend upon ourselves; for it is, it must be true that we, to a great extent, make our own destiny. Given, unfettered wills, given, immortal powers, given, the image of God, we are responsible to our Divine Creator for the right use of all these wonderful endowments. Shall we not still call ourselves "stewards of the manifold grace of God?"

Sorrow may come with the new year! Yes, sorrow may come, for it comes to all. How shall we meet it? Not half way—that would be most unwise; but when it does come—the inevitable sorrow—shall we not meet it as a disguised angel of God, sent to quicken our steps to the Celestial City?

Joy will come—yes, joy will come with trust in God and the right performance of duty, no matter what our outward circumstances may be.

How far are we responsible, individually, for the onward march of God's truth in the world? Our responsibility can only be measured by our power to advance or retard it. Solemn thoughts these of responsibility and power! We may write our names under the head of "Limited Resources" or "No Resources," and sit down utterly discouraged and useless. Why then was the parable of the talents written, if not for us? One of the definitions of talent is *faculty*—many a woman will lay claim to "*faculty*" who will refuse to acknowledge her talents. Let her employ her "*faculty*" for God. "Sanctified common sense" is the best definition or preparation for missionary work or any other good work of which we know.

God's Truth is marching on—we know it! We feel it! One cannot read the "Missionary Review" of the year without coming to such a conclusion. Shall we help or hinder it?

For our friends to whom the new year has already brought unspeakable sorrow and loss, we can only point to the glad Home-coming by and bye, that joyful meeting of which the re-unions of earth are but faintest types and shadows. "The other side is the City of Gold."

The Indian Missions of the Canadian Methodist Church have grown in numbers to 54, with 38 missionaries and 51 assistants, and a membership of 5,000 converts from the pagan tribes. The Church has erected numerous schools, industrial institutes, orphanages, and one or two hospitals.

According to the official returns there are in Canada 99,364 Indians, of these 70,394 are classified as belonging to religious denominations. The greater number, 41,813, are Roman Catholics; 16,129 are Anglicans, 10,273 Methodists, 807 Presbyterians, and 13,062 belonging to other Christian bodies. The religion of 12,300 is unknown, and 16,677 are pagans.—Missionary Review.

"If you would tell us how large an advance you would like us to make, dear Editor, we would try for it, and try hard," writes one of our correspondents. Possibly it would be an incentive to each Branch to have some definite number placed before it as the subscription for the Friend in 1899!" So writes the talented Editor of "The Woman's Missionary Friend," and furthermore she writes out the numbers required of each Branch, making the coveted 30,000! Truly it is the day of great things with them!

We would like to remind our friends that it is necessary now, because of the change in postal regulations, that they send for the papers as early as possible and some time before they really need them, as there may be some delay in getting them off, on account of the necessity of weighing a quantity together.

We were promised a sketch of Norway House, and are much disappointed that it has not arrived in time.

Please do not forget that the price of single copies of Palm Branch for the year is now 20 cents.