

Monthly Messenger.

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TO THE FRIENDS OF THE "MONTHLY MESSENGER."

Our little magazine has been scattered broadcast round our shores for the past three years. With fear and trembling we undertook the work at first. There are difficulties to encounter in such an enterprise in Newfoundland that are not met with in other countries. The editor represents but a small section of the Christian public of the colony, and therefore did not expect much denominational support. Yet we are thankful to record increasing success. Through the kindness of a few friends, some of whom are numbered among our own congregation, others members of different churches, we have been able this year to meet the publisher's demands, and circulate gratuitously a large number of the monthly parts.

We tender our warmest thanks to those friends, and would like much to mention their honoured names here, but that we know they prefer secrecy to publicity in this matter. During the year we have received cheering testimony, both written and oral, to the useful character of this periodical. To be useful is our only aim. We conceived that such a work was needed, and trusting in the guidance and bounty of our heavenly Father, undertook it. We lay no claim to literary ability, and do not profess to write for the critical and fastidious, but for plain, humble Christians who are desirous to know their duty and how to do it, and for those who are anxious to find the way of life, that they may walk therein. Our pages have not been rendered unpleasant by the introduction of controverted topics or personal allusions. Our readers are in communion with every denomination of Christians in the city, and while we fearlessly contend for the truth and our common salvation, there has been no necessity for any invidious distinctions.

It is our intention to pursue the same course in future. We earnestly ask the co-operation of our readers to enable us to increase the subscription list. This is rendered the more necessary from the fact that the cost of publication has been considerably increased, while we charge the same to subscribers. Will our friends help us to double our list of subscribers in 1877? Each number will contain a portrait and sermon of some evangelical clergyman, various selections for the head and heart and life, hints for the home, the school, the church, and, above all, articles designed to lead the sinner to the only refuge, and to immediate flight to that place of eternal safety.

Besides, we will gladly note local events that may be deemed of sufficient importance, and cordially invite correspondence on this head. We are still deeply indebted to Mr. L. T. Chancey for his efficient management of the financial part, and to him we refer all communications on business.

THE END OF THE YEAR.

Eighteen hundred and seventy-six is numbered with the past. Henceforth its events belong to history. Its joys and sorrows, hopes and fears, will return no more. Its opportunities of improvement and usefulness are gone. We have stamped upon it our own image. What we have written, we have written, and *that* we shall read again by the light of the great white throne. It has been to many a year of memorable sorrow. The angel of death has spread his wings over the joyous home, and borne away in triumph the darling of their souls—the grave has closed over faces once bright with hope, and radiant with smiles.

Sorrows, too, like gloomy clouds, have gathered over hearts, while there have been fears in the way, portending evils to come. But to all it has been a year of grace. "His mercies are new every morning." Every breeze has been laden with goodness. My soul, forget not His lovingkindness. We have had trials, temptations, sorrows, evils, cares, but how many more have our sins provoked! What favour have we merited at His hands? Yet our joys and pleasures far outnumber our sorrows and sufferings. Come, then, and let us praise the Lord. Let us exalt His name together.

Christians more frequently neglect to praise the Giver of their mercies than we imagine. Nay, more, they are often ready to repine if a wise Providence appears to disappoint their hopes. We receive good at the hands of the Lord, shall we not receive evil? Shame on us, that we are chargeable with the sin of ingratitude, upon whom Heaven has lavished its most precious treasures. God's wisdom, power, and love, have combined to make us happy, and ensure our eternal blessedness. How can we be ungrateful, or murmur at the small inconveniences of our earthly pilgrimage. Be joyful in the Lord. "These things have I spoken unto you, that My joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." A gloomy, disconsolate Christian is a lie, a contradiction, a stumbling-block. The heirs of grace and glory must be happy. Zion's travellers sing and rejoice as they homeward go. Consider our great example, "Who for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Many Christians appear to be unhappy. It is easy to know the reason. They are not working for God. It would be strange, indeed, if they were happy, while living in open disobedience. The soul is out of harmony with God. There must be unrest, discomfort, pain. All must be working who would be happy or safe. Go, despairing souls, and employ the talent or talents committed to you, to His glory, and soon you will be bright and joyful. There is a work for each, and no one else can do that work if it is not done by