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The Old Year and the New.

IT is with a spirit of devout gratitude that, at the beginning of a new year, we should survey the past with its innumerable mercies and exclaim, hitherto has the Lord helped us! Who can recount the blessings of the year now gone!—We have had peace in all our borders. While other churches have been torn and distracted by painful conflicts and controversies, our Church has had perfect rest; and she has had a mind to do the work which the Lord has laid to her hand. We should be grateful that while most inviting fields are opening to us on every side, the power to occupy them, and the will also are not wanting. Never in our history as a Church have we been honoured to do more in one year for the cause of Christ than we have done during 1880. If God gives us wealth, and the spirit of unity and liberality, it is in order that we may use all for the advancement of his kingdom. The number of our congregations and stations, of our pastors and missionaries, has increased; and not less important is it to note that receipts and expenditures have been made to balance. We state it most thankfully, that no part of the Church's work can be pointed to as having been in a languishing condition during the past year. To God be all the praise! But is it not well that we should ask ourselves, have we done what we could? Have we strengthened the kingdom of Christ in

our own families, in our Sabbath-schools and prayer meetings, and in our congregations? Have we promoted peace and goodwill?—Have we honoured the Lord with our substance as we could? Self-questioning with regard to the past year will aid us in making good use of the future.

Death has smitten down not a few of the members and office-bearers of our Church. Sorrow has darkened many a home, teaching us to look for that home which is ever bright with the sunshine of the face of God. The lesson of our mortality has been pressed upon us on every side. Let us wisely remember as we enter upon the New Year that it too will have its trials, its sorrows, its bereavements; and that the only true comfort is to be found in Him who is the resurrection and the life. Every true deed of the past year will bear fruit in years to come. The good continues: there is no death or burial for it: it will spring up, and grow, and still live on, multiplying and increasing to the end of time. No labour for the Lord is in vain. The just shall be in everlasting remembrance, and their deeds shall speak for them through all the fleeting years. Undoubtedly many members of our Church have cheerfully given up much for Christ's cause during the past year:—given up much, but they shall receive an hundred fold!

Looking beyond our own borders, the great event of the Presbyterian world during the past year was the General Council held at Philadelphia, in autumn. It was a striking