

perhaps myself among the number, cut down by the ruthless hand of the destroying angel. Yes, my dear brethren, judging from the past, some of us will certainly be called hence. When again we begin a New Year, there will be, as now, parents mourning the loss of children, torn from their embrace in the tender age of infancy, the bloom of youth, or the ripeness of manhood. Lonely widows, bereaved husbands, orphan youth will be here, who are, now, enjoying, in happy union, the comforts of domestic life.

But it is not upon this sad reality that I would dwell. I would turn your thoughts to the preparation needed for the change, that if any of you should be called hence, you may have the satisfaction of feeling that you have done everything that could be done for the good of your own souls and the souls of others. May you leave this house of God to-day, feeling that there is a momentous responsibility devolving upon you. You have perhaps entered upon the last year in which you will be allowed to make preparation for eternity. To each of you, in your several relations of parent, hus-