

EVANGELICAL TRUTH AND APOSTOLIC ORDER

# The Western Churchman

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN MANITOBA AND THE WEST

VOL. 1—No. 18.

WINNIPEG, DECEMBER 31, 1896.

PRICE 5c.

## PUBLISHERS' NOTICE

The Western Churchman is published every Thursday. Communications for insertion and copy for advertisements should be in the office not later than eight o'clock.

Correspondence is invited on subjects bearing on the interests of the Church of England in Manitoba and the West.

Annual subscription \$1.50 (if paid in advance \$1). Single copies 5c each. Matter for the Editorial Department should be addressed to REV. R. C. JOHNSONE, 184 McDermott Street, Winnipeg, Man.

All business communications, money orders, etc., should be sent to  
THE COLONIST PUBLISHING COMPANY,  
H. S. White. J. J. Roberts P. O. Box 1351

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## 1896—1897.

Good bye, old year! How many a heart  
Hast steeped in joy or filled with tears,  
One thrill for all—before we part  
For mem'ry's home through coming years.

Good bye, old year! Thy world of love  
Glow's one again on memory's wing;  
The world of pain, the heavens above,  
Will hide in flowers with songs of spring.

That star of hope beams out to-night.—  
Go forth for that with ringing cheer:—  
Uproot the wrong, uphold the right!  
And bring to all a bright New year.

With brimming hearts we welcome thee.  
With love's true eye and manhood's hand!  
With these, for all there'll ever be  
A gate to heaven from ev'ry land!  
To all "A Bright New Year!"

## NEW YEAR'S THOUGHTS.

To every Western Churchman we wish a happy and prosperous New Year:

Once more we stand on the threshold of a new civil year, and the thoughts that throng in upon us are of the most varied character. If we are thinking

men and women we look back over the year that has gone to swell the great roll of the past, we muse upon its joys and sorrows, its successes and failures; and then we turn our eyes towards the future, with all its new hopes and new aspirations. As we cross the boundary line we naturally wish to look both ways. Retrospection is an argument which appeals to worldly men, to men who are entirely, or almost entirely dead to religion, to men who care for little but the balancing of accounts. To them the past speaks with no uncertain voice; and surely if this be so, the past should also have a voice for the Christian. How can he help reflecting upon all the way by which he has been led? The voices of the innocent dead come back at such a time as this with double force; they speak of the wondrous love of the Incarnate Son of God, and they bid us seek a refuge in it from all the tempests of the world and the attacks of the Evil One. They recall to us all the words of kindly rebuke, or encouragement, or counsel, that in the past fell upon deaf ears, and bid us ponder them well now. At this time, too, we recollect the testimony of the faithful against the world, and as we balance one thing against another we see that there is more in that testimony than we perhaps were inclined to think. We think of the men of the world who have gone to their account, and we seem to hear a voice saying: "Beware, lest ye also be a castaway!" We call to mind the faithful whom God has called to the rest of paradise during the past year, and a voice that comes from that abode of peace seems to say to us: "God it was who led us through the past as through a wilderness. He is your God too; He will guide you even to the end of life, if you will." Thus do the memories of the past speak to us on New Year's Day.

And then, we cannot help indulging in anticipation, in looking forward and wondering what is going to happen during the year that has just begun. It is well that we cannot see into the future. Truly has it been said: "The veil which covers the face of futurity is woven by the hand of mercy." Out of the dead old year, with all its sins and sorrows and vexations and disappointments comes the living New Year, bringing with it new resolutions, new hopes, new aspirations, new joys.