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ANOTHER YEAR CLOSED.

While we write these lines, the last hours of the year of 1864 are rapidly approaching, and before the eyes of our readers will have rested upon them, a new year will have commenced. The past season has been of a mixed and varied character. In looking back upon it from the beginning to the end, we have to sing both of mercy and of judgment, both of God's frown and God's smile. At one time it seemed as if, through the long withholding of the rain, God designed to visit us with the utter failure of the fruits of the earth. But the threatened judgment was averted; and if there has been less abundance than in some other years, there is still no lack in our borders. It will be well for us if the dispensations of God lead us to consider our ways, and more earnestly and humbly to seek and serve Him.

Amidst some measure of alarm and apprehension from various quarters, we have been permitted to enjoy peace and quietness. Let us earnestly pray that these blessings may be continued; and that where the sword is now unsheathed, it may be commanded into the scabbard again. Deplorable have been the ravages of war, not very far from our own land. May He who can make the wrath of man to praise Him, and who can restrain the remainder thereof, so turn the hearts of men, and so overrule events and circumstances, that present troubles may be terminated, and may issue in the promotion and extension of true liberty and of vital religion.

With reference to ourselves as a Church, the past year has been remarkable on account of the number of our ministers who have been removed by death. Within the year seven ministers have been called from their labours and toils in the Church on earth, some of them suddenly, and others after a long season of sickness. Never have so many been removed in the course of a single year. Indeed the number is as great as the number who have died during the previous eight or ten years. We recognise God's sovereignty in these removals, and desire to sympathize with sorrowing relatives and bereaved congregations. The removal of so many labourers in such a brief space, while it should teach us submission to the will of the Great King and Head of the Church, should show us the necessity of giving increased attention to the work of training up a ministry in the Province. Under God, we must depend mainly on ourselves for a supply of labourers for vacant congregations, and for our new mission fields. May God incline the hearts of many to give themselves to Him and to the