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The last issue of another year has come. On behalf of its readers, and of the Church whose work it seeks to help, the RECORD gives heartiest thanks to those who have kindly aided in its circulation during the year.

Troublesome their work has sometimes been, but not fruitless. It is not too much to say that no little of the interest of our Church in missions. Home and Foreign, is due to the missionary letters and other information given in the RECORD. This information is only useful as the RECORD is circulated, and thus the helpers in its distribution are among the most effective agents in our church work.

May they not grow weary in well doing, but try this year to make the circulation larger than ever and the RECORD will try to be more worthy of their efforts. Subscribers can do much to lessen the difficulties of these willing helpers by promptly handing in their subscriptions in advance.

### THOUGHTS FOR THE CLOSING YEAR.

First, and chief, with every man, should be the thought—"What is my attitude towards the one upon whom I depend for life, for every breath I draw, for all that I am and have? Am I in an attitude of friendship or enmity, obedience or disobedience, of humble trustful reverence and love or of careless disregard? Is the aim and effort of heart and life pleasing or otherwise to Him? If the former, it is well. If the latter, then another year of life has not fulfilled the end

for which He gave it. His patience and kindness for a year have been wasted. What if that patience should weary, and no more years be given?

2. How have I grown in character? I may be richer or poorer in pocket, weaker or stronger in body, but these changes are of lesser importance. The great question as to wealth, health, strength, is, am I richer or poorer, more or less healthy, weaker or stronger, more beautiful or ugly, in character, which is eternal. Life is given to shape character for eternity. That character is taking on fixity. Soon it will be past change. What progress have I made this year towards attaining that shaping of character which I would like to have crystallized into permanency?

3. What use have I made of my opportunities for others? What suffering have I tried to relieve; what sorrow to cheer? How have my words and deeds helped others: into a better way, or the opposite. So little will sometimes give help or encouragement to another's weakness or sorrow, or direction upwards or downwards to another's life!

4. What use have I made of the year's opportunities of sending to the world's dark, hopeless millions, that knowledge which has put into my own life so much of brightness?

5. Turning from my own doing to God's doing, from my disregard of Him to His care for me, from my filling of the year for Him to His filling of the year for me, how full His seems by contrast. Egypt's seven fat years against the lean, are