

THE HOME AND FOREIGN RECORD.

JANUARY, 1862.

THE OLD YEAR AND THE NEW.

WITH JEHOVAH one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years are as one day; for He reigns unconditioned by time or space; but with us, poor halting pilgrims on life's short rough road, the passing away of one year and the coming of another is a great and solemn event. We are forcibly reminded of our frailty, of our accumulated sins, of the hour when for us time shall be no more,—of the hour when the LORD JESUS shall be revealed from Heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God and that obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and when He shall be glorified in His saints and admired in all them that believe.

What progress have we made in the Christian career during the past twelve-month? How much nearer are we to our Saviour now than when we commenced the year? What besetting sins, what evil passions have we torn up by the roots and flung from us? What use have we made of our privileges, and what sacrifices of gratitude have we rendered to God for all his goodness? He has watched and tended us as a father the children who are the delight of his heart. Have we cultivated a loving fellowship and communion with Him as becometh children? If we have brought forth no fruit let us fear lest He be angry and cut us off as cumberers of His ground, before this year is ended!

There are some of our readers who may be still living as if there were no God—nothing beyond this seen and temporal system of things. To them the advent of a new year is full of warning. Time lingers not for the evil or the good: it is hastening us all together to meet the Judge of all the earth. Ready or unready, we must meet Him. Kiss ye the Son lest He be angry! If they escaped not who disobeyed during the old dispensation, how shall we escape if we neglect *this* great salvation!

The Bride, the Lamb's Wife, is approaching nearer and still nearer to the promised perfection every revolving year; and the great purposes of Providence are being more palpably fulfilled and the ministry of all things to the Church is being more fully revealed with the lapse of time. Years that shake the stable tyranny of earthly thrones do but demonstrate more clearly that the Church is settled stedfastly on the Rock of Ages. During the year just past the progress of the kingdom of God has been such as greatly to encourage the believing heart. We see the Empires of Russia and Austria opened to the Bible. Italy too, under the reign of the gallant and good Victor Emmanuel, is traversed far and wide by those who are sowing the seed of the kingdom. The cause of Christ, once apparently quenched in martyr's