

Again we appear before the public with our annual budget, containing besides the usual Astronomical Calculations, such information in regard to farming operations and other matters as will, we trust, render it an acceptable visitor at the fireside, not only of the Farmer, but of every citizen, whatever may be his vocation.—It is now nine years since we commenced the publication of the Farmers Almanac, and although at that time the prospect of success in our undertaking could not but be far from flattering, yet we are glad to say that it has received sufficient encouragement to indemnify the publisher and to secure its future punctual issue. For this encouragement we are truly grateful, and in return the public may rest assured that we shall endeavor to keep pace with our patronage, and improve upon each successive issue.

And now, having premised thus much in regard to ourselves, let us for a moment revert to a topic more interesting to our readers—the prospects of the country. We know, because we *feel*, that the country is at present in a state of almost utter inactivity so far as business is concerned; we know that the energies of our citizens are cramped by the “hardness of the times,”—that our farmers are suffering for the want of a market for their surplus produce, and that there is a general feeling of dread for the future; but for all this we firmly believe that the crisis, if not already, will soon be passed; that the cloud which has been so long hanging over us will ere long, disperse, and usher in at least the dawn of “better days.” Government cannot long withhold its fostering care from our Agriculture. We inhabit a country of vast resources, with all the elements of prosperity in itself; and we have in our community thousands of enterprising men who cannot, and will not, long remain idle. And, taking these things into consideration, where is there that *should* doubt that we shall soon see the commencement of returning prosperity? At any rate let us all hope and *try* for the best. Let us work hard and live economically—earn more and spend less. Let us put forth our strongest efforts, and with the blessing of Providence, the year Eighteen-Hundred-and-Forty-Four will be a HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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