

wasted past by a better future. We turn a fresh page in the story of our lives—a page as yet all blank, which may be filled with a record of faithful, humble striving after good, of self conquest, of enlarged love to God and man; of time so spent that, when the whole sum of our brief life is made up, it may call forth from the King those blessed words—"Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

There is something comforting, cheering in the sound, *NEW YEAR*. Ah, it shall be indeed a *New Year* to us; old things are passed away, and though humbled indeed at their remembrance, we will not suffer ourselves by past failure to be deterred from fresh and determined efforts to live a higher, a nobler life, to live worthy of the vocation to which we are called. Our God is the God of Hope. Glorious name which bids us take courage and look forward and upward, leaving the things which are behind and pressing forward towards the mark of our high calling. Every hour of our life is filled with opportunities of showing our love to Him who first loved us, whose we are and whom, by His grace and mercy, we will serve henceforward.

THE EPIPHANY.

IN ancient times the Epiphany was called "The Day of the Holy Lights," or "The Manifestation of God." The principal design of the Church in commemorating this event is to express gratitude to God for manifesting the Gospel to the Gentile world. This manifestation placed all the nations of the

earth on an equal footing of privilege and blessing with the Jews, who had been for so long a period His peculiar and chosen people. There is special significance, therefore, in the observance of this season. It proclaims from age to age the great fact that the Lord Jesus Christ came into this world to redeem and save the whole human race; and when he commanded His disciples to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature, He would have it understood that His Kingdom was to extend to all lands and embrace all peoples. How completely this idea silences once and forever all objections which are so freely and thoughtlessly made against the cause of missions. If there be human beings anywhere on the face of the earth to whom the Gospel is unknown, then is it the duty of the Church of Christ to carry the glad tidings of salvation to them without delay.

"Shall we whose souls are lighted
With wisdom from on high,
Shall we to men benighted
The lamp of life deny?"

—*Parish Visitor.*

"HAVE YOU BEEN SAVED?"

THERE is a flippant way among certain so-called revivalists of approaching people with such a question as the above. We believe it is a favorite mode of expression addressed to Church people by Plymouth Brethren. Now, while the doctrine of "assurance" may well be more generally brought to the notice of our people than it has been, and every effort made to bring the Christian to accept the free and full salvation through the precious atonement of the Lord