

gladdened the opening of the previous year, whose ears have failed to catch the music of their voices, can see the appropriateness of such a choice. Surely your Pastor, who looks around upon nearly a score of families desolated by the ravages of death within a period of but a few months, may address those who survive, nay, every member of his flock, in the spirit of the text—"Set thine house in order, for thou shalt die, and not live."

These were the words of God to Hezekiah by the mouth of the Prophet Isaiah. The message came at a time when he was lying afflicted with a grievous sickness—"In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death."\* Highly favoured as was the good Monarch of Israel, like other men, he was subject to disease and death. And although, in answer to prayer, the short term of his existence was prolonged, yet it was but the removing to a little distance the approach of that solemn event which awaits us all, and for which he was enjoined to prepare.

In looking forward through the year just commenced, I see in anticipation many of you,

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\* ii. Kings, xx. 1.