

UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA REVIEW

Vol. X

OTTAWA, ONT., JANUARY, 1908.

No. 4

Entered at the Post Office at Ottawa, Ont., as Second-Class Matter.

FIRST THOUGHTS OF THE NEW YEAR.

AT the commencement of this new link in the long chain of time, when the old has been rung out and the new rung in, when people begin to look back upon the closing vista of the past with sentiments of joy or of sorrow, and to scan the horizon of the future with bright and cheerful countenances, full of hope and expectation, it is but fitting that we should stop for a few moments to consider several things most intimately connected with the life of every individual, things, in fact, upon which hinges his life work—time, opportunity and progress.

All creation exists for the glory of God. He is its beginning and origin. He conserves it by His Divine Providence, and He is its ultimate end. There are two classes of beings, the material and the spiritual; the former has no life after this world; the latter is destined to live in eternity. Man is composed of a material and a spiritual element, and by a gratuitous gift of the Creator, the material body is ordained to share the lot of the spiritual soul after the Resurrection from the dead. Hence, we say that man is immortal, and that his end is to attain to the beatific vision of God in Heaven, which it is possible for him to lose, however, if he make not use of the means placed at his disposal. The idea of happiness is an essential condition to man's existence. For this he lives, for this he dies. Take it away and his whole life is a burden, no better than