

"What is the new year to me? New in what object or purpose? in what more faithful work or greater fidelity to obligations? Am I being carried forward in righteous living and striving? Am I drawing nearer the goal of duty and perfection. In what respect will my life be more satisfactory to myself, more beneficial to others, or more pleasing to GOD? How will the new year be freighted with more cheerful and unselfish burdens, with more helpful tasks and charities? What sweeter perfume of love and sacrifice, of devotion and piety, will be the issue of it?" To those to whom the year brings this increasing good it is a new year indeed. The flower which budded yesterday and blooms to-day may well rejoice in passing from one day to another. The stream which becomes purer as it flows may well rejoice in its progress towards the sea. And what of that human life which, as the years roll on, is gathering to itself an added purity and beauty? Each new year is happy; each new year is happier. It is the joy of a traveller who knows that in crossing each meridian he is drawing nearer home. It is the joy of those saintly and faithful ones who, while they might have sought the country from whence they came out, sought a better country; that is an heavenly. No greater joy can we wish the reader than this. The year that is worse may well be gone. The year that is better may well be welcomed. Time is nothing save as it yields richer fruit. The years will quickly fly, and only signify as the accumulated that golden harvest which brings happiness in this life, and fruition in the next.

### CHURCH LIFE.

DOCTRINAL purity is the core of sound prosperity. Men must be instructed, not merely roused; made to think as well as to feel.

Look around. Where are the strongest and best Churches? Where there is a due admixture of doctrinal teaching—Where Christ crucified is held up as the stronghold. You cannot have noble, Christian sentiments and ideas; nor a healthy muscular Christianity, without strong meat. "I find the word *faith*," says a preacher, "occurs oftener in the Bible than any other word, except the name of GOD; and I ask myself, Is it so in my preaching?" If the pulpit were more pronounced in its utterances of the truth as it is in Jesus—more intent upon fidelity than novelty—there would be more stability in the pew.

This faith is an active, operative principle, not a mere bundle of opinions—not a cold assent to an orthodox creed. It is spirit and it is life. When the "doctrine which is according to godliness" takes captive the heart, it permeates the whole man. Its working is to make him sound all over—give him a new cast of character. You don't see leprous spots on a healthy man, nor foul blotches on the flourishing Christian; nor festering corruption in a prosperous church. The impure leaven must be purged out to prepare the way for the Spirit's outpouring.

The purer the atmosphere that pervades the Church, the more healthful and thriving its life will be. Its creeds find the best commentary in the lives of its members. *In* the world yet not *of* the world, In mart of business conducted on