

# The Theological Instructor.

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## A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO OUR READERS.

We cannot but congratulate our readers on their entrance on a new epoch of time, and we most sincerely wish them many returns of the season; that each succeeding year may find them wiser and better, more holy and happy. As we have already greeted the entrance of another year, the following advice must be regarded as appropriate and important, "Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost." These words were addressed by our blessed Lord to his disciples, at the close of a miracle, by which he had fed five thousand with only five loaves and two fishes; and were intended to afford a lasting monument of his creative power; to cherish unbounded confidence in him, as the preserver of life; and to teach his followers that frugality and piety are, or ought to be, inseparable companions. But we shall take the liberty, at present, of applying them to the improvement of time; for if we consider its inestimable value; the shortness of its duration; and how much there is to be done in it, can it be either unnecessary or improper to address you all, and say, "Gather up the fragments that nothing be lost." And especially, when it is remembered, that these, if carefully collected and wisely applied, will, by the blessing of God, serve to answer many valuable purposes. Let us then in this

editorial enquire from what are the fragments of time to be gathered? We answer from company, from business, from conversation, and from sleep.

Now as to the first we must remember that although man was created innocent, and consequently happy, yet his Maker saw that it was "not good that he should be alone," plainly intimating thereby, that he was a social being, and that without society his happiness must be incomplete. On this principle men are led to form themselves into little societies, or select parties; and as these are generally composed of persons of different sentiments and views, whose minds and manners exceedingly vary, each individual seems to enjoy in the rest an epitome of the whole world. And none can deny that, from these societies, in which the rules of propriety and morality are held sacred, many advantages are to be derived. They tend to rub off that rust which persons in their private walks are liable to contract, and are calculated to expand the mind, to increase our knowledge, both of men and things. But company is frequently a *time* devourer, and which of our readers is not sensible, that from company many a precious fragment might have been collected for very valuable purposes.

But in the next place, we are to