

remembered that no conflict was too great in view of the sure and full recompense when the accounts shall be finally and divinely balanced.

Will all our reading friends, whether old or new, be assured—

First: that the religion of the Inspired Scriptures, dictated by the Holy Spirit and written by the ambassadors of Jesus, is as precious to us as ever.

Again: that we will consecrate our knowledge and the means which the friends put into our hands to make the current volume of this monthly as much after the 'mind of Christ' as ability and opportunity will permit.

Still further: that we shall reckon it, not as a personal favor, but as a proof that the Master in heaven is loved and his cause honored, if the true Israel throughout our publishing circuit will help us to do the largest and greatest year's work through the Christian Banner that has ever been done by it.

Ever since we were capable of putting two thoughts together, it has appeared to us most unworthy, grovelling, and unmanly to live for the mere purpose of eating and drinking and wearing garments. A man is not a man in the noble sense of the word who buys and sells and gets gain that he may eat, drink, and dress. The best that can be said 'of such an one' is to say that he is a human animal, a sad yet splendid abortion in the living world. To look upward and see God's handiwork in the firmament—to look downward and aroundward and see the earth and the sea with all the contrivances with which they abound—to look into the world of revelation, the great world of spiritualities consisting of the rich wonders and signs and works of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit to save and sanctify and glorify a sin-fallen race;—to thus contemplate and enter into the plans of God, and then contemplate man living and toiling with no other object before him than to amass and use food and clothes, making the journey of life and passing to the grave as though he had been created a mere lump of animated flesh; in view of all this, is it not both correct and genteel to class him with the ignoble of the lower creation?

Friends and brethren, another year has dawned upon us. Life and its blessings—the Book of heaven with its enduring and ennobling spiritual wealth—large privileges and their pleasures and responsibilities—are ours. Let us enter into the plans of the Sovereign of heaven and earth, and work like sterling and intelligent men in view of the past, the present, and the future.

D. O.