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THE OLD YEAR AND THE NEW.

We write at the close of the old year, and before our readers' eyes shall have rested on this page, we shall have entered on the year 1867. To beings hasting to eternity, every moment is precious and important; but there is special solemnity connected with the thought, that another year has passed with all its privileges, and blessings, and opportunities, with all its events, its cares, its sorrows, its joys, its hopes and fears, and that we are entering on another year, the close of which many of us may never see. It becomes us to remember that our time is both short and uncertain, and that whether our work is done or not, we mean the great work for eternity, the time for doing it may very soon come to an end. May we be all diligent, earnest, and devoted, working while it is called to day, always abounding in the work of the Lord.

We have many mercies to acknowledge at the close of the year 1866, public and national mercies, family and personal mercies. The invasion of our peaceful land by unreasonable and wicked men was repelled, although at the cost of precious and valuable lives. The scourge of pestilence has been kept from our borders. The fears of our farmers were happily disappointed, and our Province has been blessed with a large measure of prosperity. We acknowledge God's hand in all our mercies, and we earnestly trust that, as He has been mindful of us in times past, He will bless us for the time to come.

Great and momentous events are in the future. We are on the eve apparently of a great political change in these British North American Provinces. May the guidance and the blessing of God be vouchsafed to our rulers, both here and in the parent country, and may the change be ever ruled for our growing advancement and consolidation, as a peaceful, united, loyal, and God-fearing people.

Throughout the world, great events both in the religious and civil departments are evidently impending. Some things look dark. While the temporal power of the Pope seems to be almost gone, the spirit of Popery is creeping into many quarters in Britain, where formerly it dared not show itself. But there is one at the helm, who can turn aside every danger that may threaten His church, and who will cause her to appear fair as the morn, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners. Let us trust Him, and see that personally we are cleaving still more closely to Him; and then, whatever changes, or revolutions, or conflicts may be before us, all shall be safe and well at last.