

The Monthly Record.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

JANUARY, 1878.

READER, we sincerely wish you a Happy New Year! But while such is our wish, in order to be realized, much depends on the use you will make of the facilities, opportunities, privileges, and advantages it will bring to you.

1. In order that it be a happy year, it must, on your part, be a year of usefulness and activity. Do not expect to be happy sitting on a raft constructed of the rotten timbers of *indolence* and *inactivity*, floating down the stream of time. "Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do with all thy might."

2. In order that it be a happy year, it must not be spent in pleasing *self*: Christ pleased not himself; you must then, like him, think of others, help bear their burdens, and share their sorrows as well as their joys. You will meet many a *hungry* brother with whom you can share your frugal meal; you will meet with many a *ragged* brother who may consider himself a prince in your cast off clothing; you will meet with many an aching heart that your kind word of sympathy can relieve, and many a moist eye whose tear you can wipe away, and thus, imparting happiness to others will bring you a large per centage of happiness on your benevolent investments.

3. In order that it be a happy year, it must be a year of liberality on your part.

God has graciously condescended to make you the Almoner of his gifts to your fellow creatures. He is not an austere master, gathering where he has not strewed, or reaping where he has not sown; it is according to what we *have* and not according to what we have not He will expect of us. He loves a cheerful giver. Those that sow bountifully shall also reap bountifully, and those who sow sparingly shall also reap sparingly. The poor widow who gave the two mites gave all she had. In doing and giving this year, may it be our happy lot to have the testimony of Him who knoweth all things saying to us "they have done what they could."

The Presbytery of the Kirk of Scotland in this remote province of the Dominion appears to be prospering. There are now five ministers laboring within its bounds—Mr. Jamison of New Westminster, having lately joined that Presbytery. The Rev. George Murray, of Roger's Hill, is stationed in Nicola Valley, somewhere in the Rocky Mountains, where he has succeeded in causing a new Kirk to be erected. It was fondly hoped by the many friends of Mr. Murray in his county that the hardships of that remote region would send him home again; and that he might return to labour in this county. There seems, however, to be little prospect of his immediate return: for the Presbytery of British Columbia has earnestly urged him to remain some time longer. In December last he writes as follows: "Since coming here I have worked hard visiting and preaching at stations from thirty to upwards of a hundred miles apart. The population is sparse and the settlements far apart. It is only by constant travel that any work can be accomplished. The sorest trial of all is in the indifference to religion on the part of those among whom I labor. Some openly scorn what others secretly entertain—infidelity in its worst phases. But I am thankful to be able to say that there are signs of a change for the better among some of the people. The utter disregard for the Sabbath which has hitherto prevailed, is disappearing. The attendance at public worship is as good as might be expected, and without being egotistic, I think I may that I have gained the confidence of the people to a greater extent than I could at one time have hoped for. I felt that to leave the field at this stage might be to abandon it at the time when the people might be more disposed to hear the gospel. To-morrow I have to ride about thirty miles. On Sunday morning I preach at one station and then ride twenty-six miles and have service at 7 p.m. in another district. On the following Sunday I officiate at places over one hundred and twenty miles from the above."

From the above extract the readers of the RECORD will perceive that Mr. Murray does not rest on a bed of roses, and