

uary No. and in order to this it is necessary that all arrears be paid before the end of the year.

### THE CLOSING YEAR.

One thing that makes us think little of the fact that another year will soon be gone, is that time rolls on in a continuous stream. There is no ending, and beginning again of another year except in fancy. Nature's division lines are the seasons, and these merge into each other so imperceptibly that we are carried on from youth to age, and life seems but one period from the cradle to the grave.

Were the funeral rites of the departing year to be celebrated not merely with tongue and pen but with rockings and readings of nature, as was the giving of the law and the crucifixion of Christ, men's attention would be compelled, but as it is, there is but the voice of warning, Moses and the prophets, telling us of the brevity of life, and more we need not ask, for we have His own word that, if the careless will not heed these, neither would they hear though signs and wonders were done.

To those who have ears to hear, the dying year has a solemn voice of warning. It tells those out of Christ that so far as this year is concerned the harvest is almost past, the summer is almost ended and they are not saved. Another year's opportunities of making their peace with God are gone forever. They are a year nearer a judgement seat, have a year less of time in which to secure the great Salvation and are still without it. For another year God has offered eternal life, following the unbelieving with the pleadings of His love and still these pleadings are rejected. The chains of sin are a year stronger. The habit of delay is a year harder to break. A year less of probability that they will ever be saved at all. The dying year leaves a sad complaint at the way in which all the offers of life it has brought to those still unsaved have been rejected, and it carries a sad

record with it as it returns to give an account of its stewardship to the God who sent it on its mission of mercy to mankind.

And to the Christian its words come freighted with solemn lessons. A year's opportunities for work, however improved, are gone forever. It came bringing with it, all along its way something to be done for the Master. As it bore us along it showed us by the wayside, careless hearts to be warned, sad hearts to be cheered, sorrowing hearts to be comforted, heavy hearts to be made light, wounds into which the oil and wine of human sympathy, and compassion, and help, needed to be poured, it showed us the hungry to be fed, the naked to be clothed, the sick and imprisoned to be ministered to, it gave us time to help them and no more, and if the opportunity were unimproved it hurried us on in its restless march, never returning to allow us to do that which we have left undone. And now as it goes back to God it bears its record of unimproved opportunities for doing good.

As the shadows gather around the dying year and it breathes out its farewell, no more to meet us until we stand at a judgment seat to give an account of the deeds done in it, may we make the only remaining use that we can of its lost opportunities of doing good, viz., learn from them to watch and work more carefully in time to come, so that when our years on earth are done, and the workers from life's harvest gathered home, we may not have to

"Lay down for golden sheaves,  
Nothing but leaves."

### OUR MISSIONARIES.

We have received letters from Messrs. Annand and McKenzie in the South Seas. They are working hard, and with good prospects. The mission families are well.

Late word from Trinidad shows the usual progress. Some of the native teachers were unwell but are recovering. Mr.