

## \* PALM BRANCH \*

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DECEMBER, 1894.



We wish all our readers "A Happy New Year."

This phrase has almost passed into a proverb now. It may mean anything or nothing, according as it comes from the heart or lips. The word "Happy" is not an expressive one to many of us. We believe that it comes from the same root as the word "happening," and we know there are no happenings in God's providence. We prefer the word "blessed," a combination of goodness and joy.

"The breast that happiness bestows,  
Reflected happiness shall bless."

We believe in this reflex happiness and that is what we wish for all our readers. Standing on the border of the New Year is like standing on the border of an undiscovered country. Thank God He has the plan of the country, for us individually and as a society. The plan of our individual lives is wisely hidden from us. He wants us to

"Praise Him for all that is past,  
And trust Him for all that's to come."

Only let us be sure that we do not hinder him in His plan. We know that he wants us to be "workers together with Him." His general plan for the world has not been hidden from us, and His special plan is being constantly revealed. We know that His plan for the world is, "that all men shall be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth, and that every year is to hasten on that glorious work. Just what this year will bring forth we do not know—what new fields will be discovered; what new doors will be opened; what will be the result of this war now going on between China and Japan?

Looking over the past year with its signal successes and real progress, in spite of our failures, we feel that we can trust God with His own world. His people shall see His glory if they will only "come up to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty."

Our prayer subject this month grows on us in importance—for missionaries, officers, members and converts, that they may surrender themselves to God's will and direction in their work. Let us read it again. We do not grasp it in all its importance in just reading it once over. More, let us think about it. In thinking it over one fact makes us realize its importance. We all know how, when we have become interested, absorbed in any work that we have undertaken, we are apt to consider it *our* work, our very own, and to become impatient of restraint. The strength of our own will is so great that we want nothing to come between our will and our work. We can see what a source of danger this is when it is God's work. Surely nothing less than a Pentecostal blessing will subdue our own wills and make them run in unison with God's.

Contributions must be in by the 10th of every month to ensure insertion.

Any one not receiving the paper will please communicate with the Editor.

We are very glad to have Mrs. Sealy's excellent paper to publish this month, as it is so appropriate to our Prayer Subject—our readers will find that it will repay a very careful reading.

Best wishes for our friend "The Outlook." We hope the new editor of W. M. S. department will be eminently successful in her work. We have a friendly sympathetic feeling for all our editors.

"MY WORD SHALL NOT RETURN  
UNTO ME VOID."

It was a little parcel, wrapped in brown paper, stamped with the post mark of an English seaport, and addressed to Miss Amy Holloway, 16 Harrow Lane, — City, Canada. If you had opened that parcel you would have found a little old-fashioned, dog-eared New Testament with the same address on the flyleaf. It now lay on Amy Holloway's table, while she, with tearful eyes, read the letter that had come with it. Of course there was a story connected with that little Testament, which I shall tell you.

It was given to Amy on her tenth birthday by an aunt, who had owned it for many years. That is the beginning of the story. Six years afterwards Amy's brother, who was a sea captain, had just shipped a