

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL ADDRESS.

The readers of SMITH'S PLANETARY ALMANAC—now numbering several thousands—will notice with pleasure that it reaches them in an enlarged form this year. There are no more pages, it is true, but, an improvement of about fifty dollars in the profits on the past two years receipts has permitted the discontinuance of four pages of advertising matter. This space has been filled, partly by extending the "Astronomical and other Notes," partly by what will, I think, please still better, a more elaborate and extensive "General Forecast."

So far, so good. Any additional improvement in the profits arising from the present issue, will, I may safely promise its readers and circulators, bear fruit in the next issue. I have several ideas, which, if carried out, would, I think, greatly increase the value of this work. These ideas only need the fructifying influence of a very modest "Golden shower," to blossom and bear fruit.

Perhaps some of my readers—those not personally acquainted with me—will be inclined to think that I should risk the anticipated expense, and make the proposed changes at once. I would reply by saying that hitherto I have done far more for the ALMANAC than it has done for me. The sacrifices have been all on one side. Time, snatched from a very active profession has been devoted to it without grudging. Time that ought perhaps to have been spent in relaxation and the pursuit of health has been cheerfully rendered. Astronomical observations have been made, at all hours, in all weathers, that articles of an edifying, interesting and absolutely original nature could be written and illustrated in its pages. Those "Views of Venus," for instance, published in the 1890 issue were selected from a series of drawings made with an unflinching persistence, during the coldest months, with the thermometer frequently below zero. The whole of one Summer's leisure was devoted to obtaining views for the illustrated article on "Jupiter," printed in the 1889 issue. Even these were only extraneous efforts. The continuous study of the elements had to be kept up at the same time; the newspapers watched and clipped, observations noted, and records compiled unceasingly with an unwearying hand and mind else the weather forecasts might have fallen off in their (I say it myself) sometimes almost wonderful accuracy,