

A WORD FOR THE NEW YEAR  
FOR THE RAILWAY MEN OF  
CANADA.

BY "EONA."

"Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength." Isaiah xxvii. 4.



HOW I yearn over you all! How thankful I feel when I read the reports of the work for God that has been, and is, doing amongst you, and how I long that you *all* had "the Lord Jehovah" as your safeguard from all the perils and dangers of your noble calling!

"Noble calling?"

YES!!! Emphatically yes! Were I a man I would rather be a Christian railway man than almost any other thing on earth. A Christian engine driver or conductor is a perpetual missionary and herald. To the railway men (as to John the Baptist and the prophets of old,) is given the grand task of "*preparing the way of the Lord*"; literally: for, before the locomotive the hills are cast down, "the rough places are made smooth," and "a highway made through the desert;" in its track come light and wisdom to the ignorant and "dark" places of the earth; and, whether consciously or unconsciously, willingly or unwillingly, every man in the railway service is helping to "spread the knowledge of the Lord," and hastening on the day when "all shall know Him." But oh! what a difference between willing and *un-willing* service! between the forced labour of the slave and the glad service of the true servant, who is also the *son*! What a difference, *even in the very face*, of the railway man, who toils for mere money, and dear Alexander Anderson, "the Railway Poet," who feels it a privilege to work, even

with—"Honest pick and shovel," and glories in his labour on the very track itself.

And, if I, an unknown stranger amongst you, knowing little or nothing of your daily cares and individual sorrows, except in a few instances which have been especially brought under my notice, love you all so much that not a day or night passes but I think of you and try, in my feeble way, to devise some way of cheering or helping you, how *much greater* is the love of that Eternal Friend whose loving-kindness is over you *every moment*?

Yes, *every moment*; not a step do you take, not a word do you speak, not even a thought do you think, but *He cares ab ut it*. Whether you love or hate Him, whether you know or do not know it. *He cares for you*, thinks of, and for you, and yearns over you with a love surpassing all understanding, so high, so pure, so deep it is!

But, you may say, if God so loves us, why does He so often let us get hurt, maimed, even killed in our duty? Why does He not take better care of our bodies, as well as our souls?

Dear friends, there are somethings "hard to be understood" in God's dealings sometimes, but we must always remember that we are made dependent on each other, and also that God has His laws of natural sequence and force, which, if we transgress, bring with the transgression an immediate punishment. As we tell a child not to put its hand into the fire, and leave it to take the consequence of doing so, yet are sorry for the pain when the wilful one *does* burn itself; so we know that if we fall beneath the train we shall be crushed, as a natural result; yet God *does* love, *does* feel sorry, just as an