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A GLAD NEW YEAR TO THEE AND THINE.

"Heaven give thee many, many happy days."

May Happiness ring in the New
And Peace ring out the Old.

May Spring bring peace to thee,
And Summer rosy bias that naught alloys:
All golden hopes fulfilled, may Autumn see
And Winter crown the measure of thy joys.

Amid the congratulations of the season, the New Year's day festivity and social sparkle we should not forget the poor. It is not alone the destitution that should stir our sympathy. We should remember that when work fails, hearts fail as well as bread. The cottage comforts vanish one by one, and there is a sickness of the heart as they go, for long habit has made them grow into familiar friends, until, in extremest desolation, the picture of the poet is realized—

A shattered roof—a naked floor,
A table—a broken chair,
And a wall so blank, a shadow they thank
For sometimes falling there.

The Presbyterian Church of Australia has hitherto had an independent organization in each of the colonies. It is now proposed to unify the Church by establishing a Federal assembly. A scheme for this purpose has been approved by an assembly of all the colonies and will be sent down to the colonial assemblies for approval.

The Presbyterian Church of South Africa has now its General Assembly, in which are represented the Free Church, with three presbyteries; the United Presbyterian Church, with two presbyteries; the separate presbyteries of Natal, Cape Town, and the Transvaal, and the congregation of Port Elizabeth. The united body claims to have 13,000 communicants, of whom three-fourths are natives. Outside this community there are other two Presbyterian churches in South Africa—the Dutch Reformed, with 160,000 members; and the Basuto Church, with over 9,000 members.

The Young Men's Christian Association has recently celebrated its thirtieth anniversary. Its membership is now 263,298. Thirty years ago there was not a single building owned by the associations. Now there are 315, valued at \$16,759,800. Last year the expenditures for carrying on their work amounted to \$2,296,441. They have 495 gymnasiums, 799 reading-rooms, 355 educational classes, with 25,886 students, and 762 Bible-training classes. Among the Indians there are 43 associations, 61 among negroes, 108 for railroad men, and 480 for college students.

A wealthy lady of Paris has presented a large home, handsomely furnished, valued at \$130,000, to the Young Women's Christian Association of that city. The same Christian woman also paid off the last remnant of the debt of the Young Men's Christian Association, amounting to 3,000.

We want a revival in the Church, and if we are to go on and carry the Gospel to all parts of the earth, we cannot do this without money, and we well know that all who love the Lord give liberally according to their means during their lifetime; but what we want you to do also, is to give at your

death. Let every one who has money or estate to leave, set aside a portion, small or large, to be spent in the spreading of the Gospel—shall we call it God's Portion? In olden times, Jacob promised a tenth of all he might ever possess to the Lord. O let us hasten His coming, for He will not come until the fruit is ripe. Friends—all of you who have money or estate to leave—can help to do this by adding a Codicil to your Wills.

A correspondent of *The Lancet*, London, who conducted a small Röntgen-ray gallery at a bazaar, relates a number of amusing experiences, which are thus condensed by *The Medical News*: "An elderly gentleman of prosperous appearance objected that the show was not 'up to date,' as he had 'read somewhere in a newspaper that now you can see the liver palpitating and the heart circulation.' A young and anxious mother asked to see if her little boy had really swallowed a threepenny bit, as he was uncertain himself. She had read in the papers that a great doctor, Sir Something Blister, in a speech in a large meeting in Liverpool, a little while ago, said that a halfpenny had been seen in a boy's 'sarcophagus!' A girl of the domestic-servant class asked the curator in confidence to 'look through her young man unbeknown to him, while he looked at the picture, to see if he was quite healthy in his internals.'"

The growing disposition on the part even of some who formerly may have been known as "church goers" now to be careless in that good practice, or even to altogether neglect the Sunday evening service is a matter of grave concern to many a pastor. We think of the plain-spoken "local preacher" who prayed the Lord would bless those at home on beds of sickness and also those on the "sofas of wellness". Mr Spurgeon used to describe the "onecers" in the matter of church going as those who "loved one meal a week".

The statistics of the Lutheran Church for 1896 will indicate, it is stated, 60 synods, 5,926 ministers, 9,703 congregations, and 1,430,325 communicants. These figures are both for the United States and Canada. The benevolent contributions, with three synods not heard from, amount to nearly \$1,000,000.

The two widowed sisters, Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Gibson, of Cambridge, England, who are celebrated for the discovery of biblical manuscripts on Mount Sinai, have given a site and £20,000 for the Presbyterian College to be removed from Bloomsbury, London, to Cambridge. It is this Mrs. Lewis whose article, entitled: "What Language did Christ Speak?" is one of the most important contributions to the *Christmas Century*.

Be gentle with the children God has given you. Be not bitter against them. There is not one of them on whose head, if long enough spared, the storm will not beat. Adversity may wither them, sickness may lade them and a cold world may frown on them, but amidst it all let memory carry them back to a home where the law of kindness reigned.