OUR HOME CIRCLE.

A PSALM FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE.

BY MISS MULOCH.

A friend stands at the door; In either tight-closed hand Hiding rich gifts, three hundred and three

Waiting to strew them daily o'er the land Even as seed the sower. Each drops he, treads it in and passes by It cannot be made fruitful till it die.

O good New Year, we clasp This warm shut hand of thine, Loosing forever, with half sigh, half gasp, That which from ours fall, like dead fingers'

Ay, wheth r fierce its grasp
Has been, or gentle, having been, we know
That it was blessed; let the Old year go,

() New Year, teach us faith! The road of life is hard: When our feet bleed and scourging winds us scathe, Point thou to Him, whose visage was more

marr'd. Than any man's ; who saith ' Make straight paths for your feet"-and to the opprest -"Come ye to Me, and I will give you rest."

Yet hangs some lamp-like hope Above this unknown way, Kind year, to give our spirits freer scope And our hands strength to work while it is

But if that way must slope Tombward, O bring before our fading eyes The lam p of life, the hope that never dies.

Comfort our souls with love, Love of all human kind ; Love special, close-in which like sheltered

Each weary heart its own safe nest may find And love that turns above Adoringly; contented to resign All loves, if need be, for the Love Divine.

Friend, come thou like a friend, And whether bright thy face, Or dim with clouds we cannot comprehend, We'll hold out patient hands, each in his

place,
And trust thee to the end, Knowing thou leadest Tonward to those Where there are neither days, nor months, nor years.

A NEW YEARS ADDRESS.

BY REV. CHARLES GARRETT.

which I was strangely attracted. easy to climb, and my children er than the others, and its sides companionship of my children, however, was a difficulty. Several of them were very young, and for them to attempt the ascent. Here all is plain. One bright morning, when I There are but two paths before child from injury or death.

to me, memorable morning; but That multitudes of those that are though the danger has passed, treading it, thank God they ever left me. It taught me a lesson, those they love to tread it also. the full force of which I had never known before. It showed me the on this blessed New Year's Day. power of our unconscious in- We have the terrible power of fluence, and I saw the terrible choice. We cannot move without possibility of our leading those affecting others. The children, around us to ruin, without intend- in their innocence and weakness, ing, or knowing it, and the lesson | are following us, "though with I learned that morning I am anxi- unequal step," and are crying to

whom my words may come.

for the sake of those around them. that their heads will be as steady her mother, wearied out had knowing that when you are weak, I presume. But I do the best I I want them to listen to the voice of the children who are crying to And if not, then it may come to Suddenly, in that dying hour. them in tones that it would be pass that though loving the child- the old tune of "Sweet Home" criminal to disregard: "Take ren tenderly, and striving most rang out, clear, sweet, and disthe safest path, for we are follow-

The Apostle Paul tells us that no man liveth to himself," and this solemn truth we should ever bear in mind. Those around us are, without an effort on their part or ours, constantly being moulded and shaped by our example. Hence, in spite of ourselves, we are our brother's keeper; we lift him up into purity and light, or we can drag him down into darkness and despair. This is especially true of the children around us. With these our influence is a moral atmosphere, affecting them far more than we imagine. Children are like the sensitive plates of the photographer, and our every look and action produces its effect. They are also natural imitators, and our lives are reproduced in theirs. The child of the minister will form his little pulpit, summon his congregation, and deliver his discourse. The child of the smoker will be seen with its mimic pipe going through the same performances as the father, while the child of the drinker will eagerly watch for an opportunity to drain the glass from which his father has been drinking. Their bright sharp eyes watch our every motion, in the family, at the hearth, and round the table; and though we are conscious of exerting no influence upon them. our every act and tone sinks into their plastic nature, and moulds their character for ever. If the influence is for evil, no heavenly discipline can entirely remove it; and if it is for good, no bad associations can entirely effect its de-During one of my holidays in struction. North Wales, I was staying with

I want my readers to look at my family near a range of hills to these solemn facts in their bear-Some of them were slanting, and ing on total abstinence. Our children come into the world unrejoiced to accompany me to their able to distinguish between good summit. One however was high- and evil, especially as to their daily life. We have to teach were steep and rugged. I often them what "to eat, drink, and looked at it with a longing desire avoid." In some cases there is to reach the top. The constant perplexity in this; there are physical peculiarities that make one man's food another man's poison." It is not so, however, I knew it would be full of peril | in the use of intoxicating drink.

thought they were all busy with us. They must either drink or their games, I started on my ex- abstain. The children have no seem destined for heaven from pedition. I quietly made my way | means apart from us, of knowing | their birth. Over these the up the face of the hill, till I came | which path to take; they both | mother may smile, and weep, and to a point where the path forked, appear to be equally safe and watch the fragile beauty of cheek one path striking directly up proper; the more so as they see and brow in vain. wards, and the other ascending in wise and good men walking in Old and learned doctors may a slanting direction. I hesitated both paths. They must make a stand beside their little couches for a moment as to which of the choice, and having faith in our and count the quick beating pulse; the earth is as silent as her sister two paths I would take, and was wisdom and our love, they pract they cannot stop the steady foot spheres in the far off firmament; take the safest path, for I am fol- the children cannot misunder- the blue eyes, the gentle smile, lowing you." On looking down, stand. With our lips we may re- that mortals may never interpret; I saw that my little boy had dis- commend the path of abstinence, for them the tiny head-stones me. He was already a consider- own conduct. Actions speak graver's hands. For them the ing an eternal departure. able distance up the hill, and had louder than words. Drinking a little marble urns are already found the ascent difficult, and single glass of wine in the pre-sculptured, and sweet spots in what processions would stretch when he saw me hesitating as to sence of the children will influence burial grounds lie waiting. Hug past the near horizon and move daughter?' said Mrs. Gardner. crowd of men at work shoveling which of the paths I should take, them far more than your teaching, it ever so closely to the fond he revealed himself by the warn- however forcible or eloquent it bosom, the favored immortal is await their coming as our fore- ing to get all the happiness your- well-known locality; he applied ing cry. I saw at a glance that it may be. And the wiser and ever in the hands of the angels, runners! And if we had ears to self, and do not try to add to oth- for a position in their ranks, got he was in peril at the point he holier you are, the more important and they will claim it. had reached, and trembled lest it is that the voice of your lives his little feet should slip before I should point in the right direction. could get to him. I therefore Everybody now knows that abcheered him by calling to him stinence is the path of safety, and that I would come and help him that drinking is the path of dandirectly. I was soon down to ger. That the one is the broad,

him, and grasped his little warm | winding, slippery path by which hand with a joy that every father every drunkard has reached the will understand. I saw that in region of despair. That multiattempting to follow my example tudes have cursed the day they he had incurred fearful danger, entered it, and with earnest enand I descended, thanking God that | treaty have besought their child-I had stopped in time to save my ren to avoid it. That the other is plain and safe, leading to health. Years have passed since that, intelligence, virtue, and religion. the little fellow's cry has never entered it, and earnestly urge

These paths are open before us ous to impress upon those to us, "Take the safest path, for we are following you." Parents. Charles Lamb has said that the teachers, citizens, Christians, man must be a very bad man, or ministers of the Gospel, hear their Precious angel! her life was holy a very ignorant one, who does cry. It is possible that, as in my not make a good resolution on case when climbing the mountain, New Year's Day; and believing that your head may be so steady, and singing. my readers are neither one nor your foot so firm, that you, like I had another little sister, who heavy-laden, consider the grass of the other, I want to show them many others, may tread the danded at the same age. I remem the fields, and learn from it how I get along very well," said the portance to none in the field in the importance of their re- gerous path without falling. But ber a still, beautiful night, when I to "take pleasure in infirmities, lame girl. solving to be abstainers not only what of the children that are fol- sat watching that sweet face, the in reproaches, in necessities, in

and their feet as firm as yours? fallen into a light slumber. produce a momentary flow of ani- on her limbs the burial shroud. voring to escape from his beset- baby." Sweet, consoling words be the future of the young people Denism. around you, they will never be atle to charge you with having

led them astray. Dr. Lyman Beecher has well said, "It is not enough to erect the flag ahead to mark the spot where the drunkard dies. It must be planted at the entrance of the course, proclaiming in waving, This is the way to death! If we cannot stop men at the beginning, we cannot separate between that and the end. He that lets strong drink alone is safe, and only he.' -Methodist Temperance Magazine.

BABES OF HEAVEN.

There are some infants who

I have known a few such children. I remember, as I write, a sweet sister, who came when the bird pipes his first May song. For fifteen bright months she was spared to earth, but all who saw her gave ominous shakes of the head, and some said, even with tears, "She will die.'

Of all infant singers, none heard I ever sing like her. From morning till night, from her twelfth month, her sweet, clear voice rang through the house. And she was neither taught this, nor paraded for her gift; but a friend coming in would be sure to hear "Old Hundred" from the singing lips of a babe, who might be clinging to the chair in her first happy essay to walk. China" and many of the ancient melodies were as household words to that little creature; and every day at twilight, till nearly the day she died, she would sing herself to sleep, lisping those old

"Life is the time to serve the Lord." service. How happy she has been these long years up there

for their own sakes, but especially lowing you? Can you guarantee pale hands, the laboring chest; distresses for Christ's .sake,"

earnestly in other ways to pro- tinet. How can I describe the mote their welfare, your example | feeling that thrilled through all may be the stumbling block over my veins, when looking at the comes, and in a moment all is besides supporting her family. which they shall fall into present little lips, pale and trembling, I changed. Every blade of grass and eternal ruin. We are responsaw them moving to the cadence in the meadows, every flower in which time Carrie had been unussible to God for our example, and of that cherished melody? There the fields, every leaf upon every ually silent and thoughtful, she in the great day we must meet lay a babe, scarcely more than a tree, seems to quiver as with the results of even our unconsci- year old, disease upon her, her grateful joy; while the low-flying ous influence. I am personally temples whitening in death, sing- winds seem burdened with their prepared to meet the results of my ing a triumphal strain with a freightage of perfume and of total abstinence, but I dare not failing breath. No language can praise. So let the heart of man meet the results of my drinking, tell how indescribably beautiful, speak forth the praise of Him who however moderately. Dare you? yet how awful was the scene. In the decision to which you come She sang it through to the last grass, and as the former and the to-day take in the whole case. If note, and her fragile form sank latter rain-the blessings of His you drink you may gratify habit, backward. In the morning they years.—Christian Leader. appetite, and custom; you may were laying, lightly and tenderly,

mal spirits, and even fancy that I heard lately a little story. you derive a little physical advan- which for pathos could not be tage. Having said this, I think I excelled. A beautiful infant had have said all that can possibly be been taught to say (and it could | said in favor of drinking; and I say little else), "God will take think you will see that you have care of baby," It was seized only selfish reasons for continuing with sickness, and at a time to practice it: your own comfort, when both parents were hardly your own pleasure, and health. convalescent from a dangerous ill-If, on the contrary, you resolve to ness. Every day it grew worse, abstain, you will see that your and at last was given up-to die. reasons will be noble, generous, Almost agonized, the mother and Christian. You avoid the prayed to be carried into the "appearance of evil; you will room of her darling, to give it pursue a course of self-denial; one last embrace. Both parents your example will be one that all succeeded in gaining the apartcan safely imitate. When you ment,—but just as it was thought leave a home, or company, you the babe had breathed its last. will have no misgivings as to the The mother wept aloud; and once influence you have exerted. No more the little creature opened man to whom drink is a tempta- its eyes, looking lovingly up in tion will be able to make your her face, smiled and moved its one glass an excuse for his two little lips. They bent closer glasses. No victim who is endea- down-" God will take care of ment will be thrown back by they had bardly ceased, when the your example; and whatever may angel-spirit was in heaven .- Mrs.

YEAR UNTO YEAR.

As year unto year is added, God's promises seem more fair The glory of life eternal, The rest that remaineth there : The peace like a broad, deep river That never will cease to flow; The perfect, divine completeness
That the finite never know.

As year unto year is added, God's purposes seem more plain, We follow a thread in fancy, Then catch and lose it again; But we see far on in the future A rounded, perfected bliss; And what are the wayside shadows, If the way but leads to this?

As year unto year is added, And the twilight of life shall fall, May we grow to be more like Jesus, More tender and true to all, More patient in trial, more loving More eager his truth to know, In the daily paths of his choosing More willing in faith to go.

SETTLE WITH THE PAST

To-night everything is hushed; about to take the precipitous one, tically turn to us and ask, Which steps of death-they cannot wave and, as if the instinct of the soul little voice shouting, "Father, swer, and answer in a way that heaven. Something is written in its immortality, there is a solemnity in the midnight air and audibleness in its pulse, which remind off somewhere to spend the day, I covered my absence, and followed but our true answer will be our stand in niches, fresh from the besides days and months, are tak-

> It we had keener eyes to see, would our former selves put on- Year's Day you ever had. ah! little dreamed of now! In this one life we call ours there are many lives, and the past holds them as God's custodian for the judgment-day. Now, that we are we not recall our past vows, resograce to fulfill them. Settle with | you like to go with me?" the past. It has claims upon you, and they are unadjusted. A ma?" dreadful thing it is to have these debts open in the chancery of heaven, and all the while accumulating interest. Many a soul goes into bankruptcy in this way. God help you, friend and brother; God help you to meet these obligations. Meet them promptly, and then see what you can do for her.' 1885. But do not cheat your soul with new pledges so long as the old are unredeemed .- Richmond Advocate.

THE GRASS OF THE FIELD. Anxious and troubled soul burdened with care, weary and

then are you strong.

ful to God for His mercies. How so she could wheel herself around quickly the grass responds to the a little; but it is useless, trying I touch of the falling rain! Dry, guess. Fifteen dollars is a big dnsty and withered, the shower sum for a poor woman to lay up sends to man-as dew upon the

OUR YOUNG FOLKS

DARLING'S QUESTIONS.

Where does the Old Year go, mamm a. When it has passed away It was a good Old Year, I wish that it could stav.

It gave us spring and summer, The winter and the fall : It brought us baby sister, And that was best of all.

Where does the Old Year, go, mamma? I cannot understand.' My love, it goes to join the years

From where will come the New Year When the good Old Year is dead? Now all my birds and all my flowers With the Old Year have fled.

I do not think that I shall love This strange New Year at all.' Yes, dear, it, too, will bring the spring, The summer, and the fall.

Where will it come from, mamma? I do not understand.' It comes from where all coming years Are hidden in God's hand.'

-Evangelist

CARRIE'S HAPPY NEW YEAR.

" Jennie Graves is just going to have the loveliest set of furs for New Year's !" said Carrie Gardner, as she came home from a visit. her mother: "Her sister showed them to me. I said I wished 1 had some like them; and she said she should think you would get me some for a New Year's present too. Then Jennie and I would have something just alike, and that would be so nice! Can't I have some mamma? they are so cheap this vear!"

"Seems to me it was only last winter that papa got a new set of furs for his little daughter,"

"Yes, I know. But they wern't half as nice as these, and they're getting to look shabby too," replied Carrie, with a disdainful look at the muff she still held in her hand.

well," said Mrs. Gardner.

when I was startled by hearing a path shall I take? We must an- him back, that angel-warden of were suddenly quickened to feel have as nice a time on New Year's friends, in the great busy metroto have a nice present, at least."

"Do you know why you do not and the shovel it was to be. enjoy New Year's as well as some | Passing down Fourth Avenue of your schoolmates do, my little on a snowy morning, he found a onward to the solitudes that "I think it is because you are try- snow from the sidewalks about a hear, what voices would reach us, ers' happiness. Turn over a new it, and went to work with a hearty familiar tones, echoes of our own leaf this year, Carrie. Try to forgotten utterances, and what a make others happy, and see if you vocation. Not long after, one of restored vividness of reality will not have the happiest New the owners of the property, a

"Can't I have the new furs, the street, saw the young man's mamma? I cannot be happy face, was struck by its intelliwithout them."

"I think you can, little daugh- brought him to such a pass. A ter, if you can go to work in the day or two later, his business took about to begin a new year, shall right way. But we will not talk him to the same locality again, any more about it now. I wish and brought him face to face with lutions, promises? First of all, to make a call or two this after- the same man, still shoveling remember these, and pray for noon, and it is about time. Would snow. He stopped, spoke to him,

girl is a very sweet child, and I of the latter's many enterprises think you will enjoy the visit to there was a vacant place, and the the bedside of the little cripple.

all the whole time?" said Carrie. | well, indeed, that in a few months "I should think you would get so he was promoted, and at the end tired you couldn't stay here. I of three years he was at the head should want some one to carry me of the enterprise, at a large salary. round out doors, and amuse me He is there to-day, with the cerall the time."

Helen does suffer for lack of care, to shovel.—Christian Union.

can. I have been trying to earn Learn from it too, to be grate money to buy her a wheel-chair,

A day or two after, during came to her mother, saying-

" Have you asked papa about getting those furs for my New Year's present?"

Her mother replied in the affir-"And what did he say? Will

he get them, do you think, mam-"I think perhaps he will if you

are a good girl.' " Please, mamma, I would rather have the money they would cost to spend as I please, if papa

would give it to me. "What do you wish to buy with it?" asked her mamma.

"I want to get a chair for that poor little lame girl, mamma.] think she needs it a great deal worse than I need new furs.', And, please don't you think I may have the money? Her mother is so poor, it will be a long time before she can get it for her."

Carrie's mother gladly consent ed, and so the chair was purchased : and on New Year's Day Carrie and her mother made another visit to the poor child's home, taking with them the chair, together with some books, papers and toys, which Carrie decided she could spare from among her own playthings.

Helen was so pleased with her presents, that she knew not how to express her thankfulness; and her mother was as much gratified

Carrie felt fully repaid for her self-denial as she witnessed their delight, and that evening said to

"I do believe, mamma, this is the very happiest New Year's Day I ever have had. I have been so happy!"

WILLING TO SHOVEL.

To be willing to begin at the bottom is the open secret of being able to come out at the top. A few years ago a young man came to this country to take a position in a new enterprise in the Southwest. He was well bred, well educated, and he had the tastes of his birth and education. He reached the scene of his proposed labors and found, to his dismay, that the enterprise was already bankrupt, "Why, I think they look very and that he was penniless, homeless and friendless in a strange "They look shabby by the side land. He worked his way back of Jennie's, anyway; and I want to New York, and in midwinter some new ones so bad! I never found himself, without money or as the other girls do, anyway. polis. He did not stop to measure They are most all of them going | the obstacles in his path; he simply set out to find work. He us that much else, and much more | can't go; and I do think I ought | would have preferred the pen, but he was willing to take the shovel;

> good-will, as if shoveling were his many-millionaire, passed along gence, and wondered what had received a prompt and courteous Where are you going, mam- answer, talked a few minutes for the sake of getting a few facts "To call on a family by the about his history, and then asked name of Taylor, who are very the young man to call at his office. poor. They have a little girl That night the shovel era ended, about your age who is lame. Her | and the next day, at the appointfather is sick, and her mother has ed time, the young man was closto support them all. The little eted with the millionaire. In one young man who was willing to In a little while Carrie stood by shovel got it. It was a small place, at a small salary, but he "Do you have to lie right here more than filled it; he filled it so tainty that if he lives he will even-"Mother hasn't time to do that. | tually fill a position second in imwhich he is working. The story "No," said Mrs. Taylor, "poor is all told in three words: willing

SUNDA

JANU

PAULACTS

Those parts-1 donts where he ha namely, Philipp and Berea. It Paul preached neighborhood of tation-The wor the mingled sens exhortation, which bered in the apo they should be. courses. And Corinth, where Church required ment. At Cori Erastus and Tim already met the His work inst n gelize, but to o the growing Chu Some think they rob him of the n rying to Jerusal the poor saints th how very spite against him, I more for his bl ey. His work i There accomp

carrying up a the churches of to avoid even malversations slanderers was him. 3 Cor. 8 tatives were acc the leading chu it were, as and would be witne Into Asia-It that Asia in the notes, not the the province of on the Egean S of Pyrrhus; mentioned else Testament. lonian, who h Ephesus. Ac one of the weal was able to be attendanco on years. Aristar during the shi such close fello prisonment tha fellow prisoner Secundus-of known, Gains Derbe, in Lv him from Gaiu tioned in Acts very high in I beloved brothe ter." Eph. 6:2 mus-A Genti whose going occasion to the apostle, Acts 2 The sudden cha plural in the that the name to the list of Pa us-Almost in biessed evange company, and does he intima in labor and su Where we ab on the surface

> see Rev. 1: 10 the Church of date of this ready spoken o per. 1 Cor. 1 day of the week first trace of th day which the exhibits. It a stated day and semblies, not reference to John (20: 19) Lord's day of When the discip were, therefor Paul, but had course, and th either of the then commonl feast. To bred bread is never always broken to " break bre guage, the sar New Testame indicates the Supper, unsua the agapte, or a prominent vices of the ap 1 Cor. 11: 20, In the upp

stay was to kee

name was prob

from verse 9 t floor of the h row streets o per story is o devotional put removed from partly as givi the house. sized house m three hundre dow-Not a w a large ungl latticed doors wide open h present. You He was a customed to s perhaps of a derstanding but sometime of the apost sleep His he. on his breast a rush and a into the court is in him - It culous embra that his life "his life is