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HE first of January, a day set apart by the Church in commemoration of the circumcision of our blessed Lord, is, by a large section of the more civilized peoples of the world, regarded as the first day of a New Year. This being so,—the fact that even from a scientific stand-point, the day has been unfortunately chosen, being overlooked—it is only befitting that some reference be made to a day that by usage has become invested with so great importance.

For many business men, New Year is a day of new departures. The business transactions of the past year are reviewed, books are balanced, comparisons are instituted between the results and those of other years, progress or falling back being noted, causes leading to failure or success are carefully sought for, plans, resolutions, are made for the year that has opened.

In other respects, and with regard to very different matters, it is regarded as a day most suitable for the turning over of new

leaves, for making fresh starts, for forming good resolutions. Men make up their minds that they will have a cleaner record to look back upon at the end of the year, if spared to see it, than was that of the past. They resolve to be better citizens, better children, or parents as the case may be. They will waste less time, will do more for the good of their fellow-men, will be more watchful over their actions, yielding less often to temptation, being better-tempered, and so forth. They will be more diligent in their attendance at the various services in God's house, will be more Christ like. All this is well, the making of such good resolutions proves that people are not contented with themselves, that they see where improvement can be made; it clearly points to the fact that men not only recognize the beauty of virtue, goodness, holiness, but that they wish to be better.

The making of a good resolution is a very different thing from the carrying of that resolution into effect. It is a comparatively easy thing to will so and so, the doing of that which has been decided upon