

enjoy our Sabbaths without the interruption of warlike movements. As a church, we have had reason to thank God for His great goodness in bringing to completion the union, which has added so largely to our moral strength and efficiency for the accomplishment of the work of the Lord in this land; and not only for the union itself, but for the harmony and cordiality with which the operations of the now united church are carried on. We have been lately called upon in our various sanctuaries to offer up grateful thanksgivings to God for His goodness, and, we doubt not, real gratitude was experienced and expressed by many throughout the land on that interesting occasion. When we thus glance at the many mercies which we enjoy as a church, as a community, and as individuals, it surely becomes us to thank God for His goodness during the past year, while we humbly pray that He would be our guardian and our guide during the year on which we are entering, and make all things to work together for His own glory, and for the good of His church and people.

It is true, the year has closed amidst rumours and alarms of war. The little cloud, which, like a man's hand, has been for some time seen in the political horizon, has suddenly assumed an alarming and portentous magnitude. The note of warlike preparation has been sounded, and from day to day the progress of events is most anxiously watched. While we are prepared with one heart and hand to vindicate the just cause of our country, it becometh us earnestly to pray that God may still avert dreaded war, and that He who has the hearts of all men in His hand and can turn them as rivers of water, may guide the counsels of the rulers both in England and America, and lead them to follow the things that make for peace. No doubt earnest prayers will be offered up by good men in both countries that peace may still be continued. May God lend a favourable ear to these supplications! Meanwhile let us rejoice in the assurance that God reigneth, that He is governor among the nations, and that He can make even these storms and tumults subservient to the advancement of His own great and blessed purposes.

At this season we should cherish affections of love and charity to all our brethren of mankind. It is natural that at such a time friends and members of families should remember each other, and manifest a kindly interest in each other's welfare. Let us give free scope to our feelings of benevolence and charity. While we remember those near and dear to us with affectionate interest, let us not be forgetful of the poor, the desolate, the bereaved. Let us give of our substance to the poor. Let us give our countenance and sympathy to the friendless and the desolate. "Blessed is he that considereth the poor; the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble." Remember the words of the Lord Jesus how He said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." No one is impoverished by the exercise of benevolence. Well hath a modern christian poet said:

Love divine will fill thy storehouse, or thy handful still renew,  
Scanty fare for one, will often make a royal feast for two.

For the heart grows rich in giving; all its wealth is living grain;  
Seeds which mildew in the garner, scattered fill with gold the plain.

Is thy burden hard and heavy? Do thy steps drag wearily?  
Help to bear thy brother's burden; God will bear both it and thee.