

it was filled with mercy—and though not in all things, such as we could have desired, yet has it been crowned with the goodness of the Lord. The succession of day and night brought us alternate labor and rest, exercise and sleep; the seasons have moved their wonted course, and filled the earth with plenty. Spring put forth its variegated beauties, and covered the hills with verdure, and the valleys with flowers; the husbandman cast his seeds into the bosom of the earth, and the promising germs afforded pleasing anticipations of a plentiful harvest. Summer came in all its fervid brightness, “with light and heat refulgent,” nurtured the infant verdure of the spring, and matured it for luxuriant Autumn; that cheering season of joy and plenty, in which man beheld the indulgent blessings of the Lord, and rejoiced that the year had produced “food convenient” for him. Lastly, stern Winter has laid his icy hands on the earth, and claimed for it a respite, in order that it may again pour forth, with renewed energy, the beauties of vegetation.

The retrospect of the religious events of last year affords the zealous Christian ample cause for joy and gratitude. The nations of the earth have, with few exceptions, dwelt together in peace, and the desolating sword has scarcely been seen to move among men. The Heralds of the Gospel have spread the “good tidings” of peace on earth and good will towards men, in countries which had never before heard the news of salvation through Christ. Missionary exertions have progressed with unabated ardour, and have been attended with the most satisfactory results in every quarter of the world. By means of Bible Societies, the Scriptures have been extensively circulated; and many, who at the commencement of last year, knew not the faith, are now among the believers in the Son of God.

The inhabitants of this City have not been barren spectators of these blessed events; they have contributed liberally, during the last year, to Bible and Missionary Societies, Sunday Schools, and

many other benevolent Institutions: the spirited exertions of several of our philanthropic fellow-citizens have enlarged the opportunities of education to that class of society, which stands most in need of improvement; and hundreds of poor children, who at the beginning of last year, were advancing in the paths of ignorance, and growing up to crime and error, are now receiving an education which will make them valuable members of society. To the patrons of these Institutions, we would say, you have embarked in a good cause, persevere, persist; let not the scoffs of the licentious, nor the sneers of the censorious, shackle your exertions; let your consciences be your monitors, and the blessings of parents and children will be as a bed of roses and a pillow of down, affording you tranquility which the world knows not.

During the last year several of our friends and acquaintances have been removed from this scene of existence, to a world of spirits. “One generation passeth away, and another cometh, and though in many things, “their way was their folly,” yet it is to be feared that too many of us are still pursuing the same course of “vanity and vexation of spirit.” The tender remembrance which departed relatives and friends naturally excite in our breasts, should induce us to endeavor to imitate their virtues; we are moving towards the same eternal goal, we have the same moral duties to perform, and as such awful consequences depend on our performing them in truth and holiness, we should not lose a moment in “laying aside every weight and the sin that does so easily beset us,” in order that we may “run with patience” our christian race.

During the succession of the next three hundred and sixty five days, many parents and children will bid each other a long adieu, the loving husband and the tender wife, will in many instances, be separated for ever by the irresistible arm of death; and who can say that you, kind reader, may not be among the number of