

reveal Himself more clearly to men, and bring men into His fellowship, re-creating then in His likeness. It is not without reason that we date our centuries from the hour when God "was made flesh and dwelt among us," for that coming meant new life to the world, the beginning of a blessed transformation, which shall continue until it finds its completion in a regenerated race.

A new century that cannot look back upon progress in that process of transformation marks no real advance. The progress of the race can be reckoned only by the progress of the Kingdom of God in men's hearts and lives. A new century begins well only if, in the bosoms of those who are the Lord's true servants, there glows afresh the desire to do His will perfectly, who has "delivered them from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God," and if their hands are set more earnestly to accomplish the work which the Lord in heaven has set Himself, and set them, to do on earth.

That work is to persuade men to allow God to have His rightful place in their hearts and lives, to win the world from its own foolish and hurtful ways to His love and service.

A hopeful work it is, for it is the divine purpose—a purpose that no power in heaven or earth or hell shall finally thwart—that all men shall be brought to loving acknowledgment of God's authority over them. Hopeful, because it was to this very end that the Son of God gave those years of toil and suffering on earth, to this end that He poured out His soul unto death. Hopeful, because, wherever the name of this Son of God has been boldly proclaimed as the Redeemer and the regenerator of mankind, that proclamation has won attention, and even the most brutal and vile have been won to godliness and virtue.

Especially hopeful is the task—why call that a task, which is so high a privilege?—of those who seek to lead the children in the right way, into the knowledge and love of their Heavenly Father. There is an old, old promise, which, as the new century

begins, with its new inspirations and its new opportunities, should give all fresh heart. "They that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God." Diligence, care, faithfulness in the planting can have but one outcome, a generation loving God, honoring God's name, faithful in God's service, and going forward with steady step to the rewards of the heavenly kingdom.

Books that will Help

By Rev. Professor Baird, B.D.

The lessons for the first year of the new century are chosen from the beginnings of the New Testament and the Old; and for the man who has the leisure and the training for elaborate study there are libraries full of literature on these great subjects, but for the average teacher—average in the kind of equipment he has had for his work of teaching and average in the amount of time he can devote to detailed preparation each week,—some hints about the kinds of books he may use to greatest profit are likely to be welcome.

The lessons for the first half of the year are upon the life of Christ, and are taken from the four Gospels. The teacher will find it of great value to have some book specially on the life of Jesus, and altogether the best short treatise on the subject is *Stalker's Life of Jesus Christ*. It contains only about 150 pages and is quite inexpensive (50 cents), but it is well arranged, it is beautifully written, it is marked by a fine and sympathetic spirit, and it presents the earthly life of our Lord as a comprehensive whole in such a way as to be of extreme value to any teacher whose lot it is to take detached lessons from the Gospels and set them, in their proper bearings, before a class of young people.

More extended works on the same subject are *Cunningham Geikie's Life and Words of Christ* (various editions, from \$1.00 up), which is very valuable for the light it throws on the events and surroundings, social, religious and political, in the midst of which Jesus moved, and *Dean Farrar's Life of*