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A NEW YEAR dawns. How bright new things are! How soon the brightness passes away, and the wear begins to show! Can we keep the New Year bright? We can, and cause its days to brighten every time. Earth dims as heaven dawns, and heaven is nearer than we think. "Where Thou art is Heaven," sang the Wesleys, and they sang truly; "Thy presence makes my paradise," for what is paradise without the King, and heaven without its Christ? We can antedate the joys of heaven by opening our hearts to that presence, and making manifest by loving lives that we are His indeed. Then every day will open with brightness, and close with deepening peace. May this presence be with every reader; then will there be confidence as we wish all

A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

## A MEDITATION ON THE 91ST PSALM.

What blessed promises! but let us not forget that the fulfilment of these promises depends upon compliance on our part with certain divinely required conditions. It would be no use to trust in Lord to fulfil the promise, "There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling," if we choose to go in the way of evil,—eating unwholesome food, breathing impure air, etc. And then, if in time of sickness, medical aid would likely be helpful, with the divine blessing we should not neglect to avail ourselves of such aid. Not until we were fully convinced that no medicine could do us any good, would we be justified in using prayer only, and even then, I do not think we are to expect that in these times the Lord will work a *miracle* in answer to prayer for bodily health, any more than for bodily sustenance. There is not the same necessity for miracles now that there was in the days of Elijah and the other

prophets, and in the days of Christ and His apostles, namely as a testimony to men that "the Lord, He is the God," and that all the truths proclaimed by them, who wrought, and by those who were instrumental in working, those miracles were of divine authority.

But in every case it is undoubtedly our privilege and duty still to pray, trusting in the Lord to do as will be most for His glory, and our best interests. "As long as there is life there is hope," it is said: and I will not say that it might not please the Lord in some cases to perform a direct miracle of healing, in answer to prayer offered in submission to the divine will, and with a sincere desire for His glory. Such a manifestation of divine power would undoubtedly be greatly corroborative of the testimony of the scriptures that, "God is, and is the rewarder of them that diligently seek Him," but I do not think any one has a right to test the efficacy of prayer, by the answer in such cases, generally speaking. In no cases of sickness let us trust to medical aid *alone*, for to do that would be to "depart from the Lord," and "make flesh our arm," and so bring ourselves under the divine displeasure. See Jer. xvii. 5, also 2 Chron. xvi. 12, 13. Nor let us ever forget the great condition, "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness." Look unto Jesus as the physician of the soul, that so your great aim in life may be to glorify God. We may trust in the Lord to "keep us in all our ways," provided those ways are in accordance with the divine will, and that as revealed in the scriptures, broadly and fairly interpreted, comparing scripture with scripture and under the illuminating of the Holy Spirit, given in answer to prayer, rather than as interpreted by the Evil One; for even he sometimes quotes scripture, or pretends to, in order the more effectually to enforce his temptations. He did it when he tried to