

be interpreted by the future also. I have my hopes and fears, but I pretend to no present interpretation. Eighteen hundred and fifty-four is now departing — almost departed — but as it leaves us it takes its place in the great providential order, a link in the grand chain of providential history. It will find its adjustment there independently of any effort of yours or mine. He that bindeth in one orderly and harmonious system Orion and the Pleiades, Sun and Moon, our Earth and the countless worlds which roll above and around us, — He will hold the passing years in subjection to his infinite plan, and bind every one of them there in harmony with the ruling idea of his sublime Order.

We have looked at the departing year ; and marked a few of the more prominent events which the outward world has presented to our notice. But there is another world — a world within us — a world of thought and feeling — a world wherein all that is without is reflected — a world where character is silently formed, and the life of the soul elaborated ; and the survey which the departing year suggests would be essentially defective if we failed to cast our eyes there. Does the year at its close find us nearer to God, or farther away from him, than we were at its commencement. Does it find us advancing or retrograding in the divine life — watching or neglecting the immortal interests of the soul ? The considerations here suggested we must defer until our second service. What time more fitting to think of them than when the shades of the last evening of the year have gathered around us ? Meantime, and always, may God dispose every one of us diligently to watch, patiently to wait, humbly to learn, and devoutly to adore.