

given Scotchmen such a high rank among the nations. Abroad they are schoolmasters, clerks, merchants, or engineers. They struggle hard to keep the boats head to the waters in the most stormy sea, and they seldom break down to mere laborers. Cobbett says in England you may see an Irishman digging a ditch, an Englishman pruning a hedge, and a Scotchman with a long coat superintending both. It has been tersely said that if you give a Scotchman a bible and a horn spoon he will find his way through the world. There are more Scotchmen abroad than at home. They are scattered all over the world, and wherever they wander, if not lost to all moral sensibility, they must remember the Sabbath, the parish Kirk and family worship. The Reformation has effected great changes in Scotland, swept away the accumulated superstition of ages, and given us sound theology, a learned and pious ministry, and a religious peasantry. I wish well to the Mother Church and all her branches. Nothing would give me more pleasure than to see John Knox's family all on one platform. Presbyterians are best known by their mothers' name among strangers. When travelling in the United States, I was sometimes asked, to what branch of the Presbyterian Church do you belong? If I had answered a Free Churchman or Anti-burgher, they would scarcely have comprehended any meaning, but when I answered I belong to the root they at once understood me.

It is a serious thing to look back for three hundred years. The tide of time has swept down the Reformers and their successors. The lights of the Reformation shone only for an appointed time. The stars of our transatlantic Zion are setting one after another. The Reformation of the Church is good, but the amendment of our own lives is better. A holy life is the mainspring of success in ministerial labors. It is the most powerful sermon in the world, and is recommended by our Lord. "Let your light so shine before men, that others seeing your good works may glorify your father in heaven."

JOHN SPROTT.

FOR THE NEW YEAR.

Under the drawbridge, over the sea,
Flowing from time to eternity,
Two freighted barques have in passing met,
Their colors glistening, their sails all set.
One slowly moves with a solemn sound,
The mournful sweep of the outward bound,
The other cuts through the silver foam,
Joyously seeking its mortal home.

We see the crew as they onward strive,
Alike three hundred and sixty-five;
Strange mysteries lie in the hand of each,
Of mortal action and mortal speech;

The record of one sad Memory holds,
Hope for the other the scroll unfolds,
Pages, whose register Time must scan,
Heirlooms and issues of life for man.

Only a passage of passing years
Under the drawbridge the ocean hears
Only the fall of a sand of time;
Only a new year's herald chime;
Nothing startling and nothing strange
In time's immediate and usual change;
Nothing—yet stay, can we idle here
Between the parting and coming year.

One has the graves of our household dead,
The prayers we offered, the tears we shed
Our fierce temptations and overthrow,
As we weakly yielded to wily foe;
The bitter sorrow, the galling pain
Of toil and trial, alike in vain;
Our wasted hours, our days of sin,
Soiling the raiment we sought to win.

The other—oh God! we are trembling here,
Watching thy gift of the coming year:
Humble and helpless, we waiting stand
Before the door of this promised land.
Oh! lift the latch of the opening year
And walk beside us in blessing here,
So shall we find us over the sea,
Under the drawbridge, at home with thee.
Halifax, 1860. M. J. K.

PRESBYTERY OF KIRKCALDY.—THE SCOT-
TIE CASE.—OBJECTIONS TO THE SETTLE-
MENT OF MR. BLACKWOOD.—The Presby-
tery of Kirkcaldy met in Scoonie Church on
Thursday for the purpose of moderating in
a call to the Rev. James Blackwood, who, it
will be remembered was the choice of the
majority when the Crown gave the congrega-
tion the liberty of nominating a minister as
successor to Mr. Brown. The Rev. Mr. Hax-
ton of Pathhead, Moderator, preached an
able and appropriate discourse from the text,
"One is your master, even Christ, and all ye
are brethren."

At the close of the service the Clerk of the
Presbytery (Mr. Morrison of Methil) read a
call from the parishioners of Scoonie to the
Rev. James Blackwood, after which an op-
portunity was afforded to all present to sign
the call. This work occupied considerable
time; and after it was completed it was esti-
mated that 231 members and 27 adherents
had signed the call. The Moderator then
intimated that the call would be left in the
hands of Mr. Lochtie, the session-clerk, for
the purpose of allowing those who had been
unable to attend the meeting of Presbytery
an opportunity of adhibiting their names
to it.

The Moderator having asked if any parties
had objections to lodge, Mr. Philip Oliphant,
writer, Anstruther, produced a mandate show-