

plest guarantees. A cloud of witnesses rise to testify that not a fragment of Heaven's revelation has been lost—that not one jot or tittle of the law has failed—that “God’s law is perfect;” It has been often exposed—like the infant Moses sent adrift upon the swelling deep in the bulrush ark—but protectors have been found sometimes where least expected—in the lowly cottage and the lordly hall—amid the excitement of the Court and the retirement of the cloister. These two testaments, like the tables of stone, have been kept safe as it were within the Ark of the Covenant, overshadowed by the guardian cherubims, and watched over by Him who is seated between them. *He and they shall never perish.* The heavens shall wax old as a garment—the elements shall meet with fervent heat. The sun shall be turned into darkness. The stars shall withdraw their shining. But the lamp of life, like that which illumined the Holiest in the Ancient Temple, shall never go out. This light, which shines in this dark place, will shine more and more unto the perfect day. “All flesh is grass, &c. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth, but the Word of the Lord endureth forever.” Think on these things, and say, is not a Book so distinguished, “Wonderful”—and may we not employ respecting it the language before us, “*what hath God wrought!*”

R. F. B.

All communications connected with the Record and the General Agency of the Church, to be addressed to “REV. W. REID, OFFICE OF THE MISSIONARY AND ECCLESIASTICAL RECORD,” Toronto.

Remittances in behalf of the Widows’ Fund, and Communications connected with that Scheme, and the Home Mission, to be addressed to “REV. ALEX. GALE,” Mount Albion P.O., C.W.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications intended for the *Record* should be in the Editor’s hands by the 15th of the month.

THE RECORD.—All possible care is taken in addressing and mailing the *Record*. Should any irregularity occur in any quarter, in the receipt of the *Record*, intimation should be sent at once to this office, in order that the irregularity may be remedied.

We have been obliged to defer several communications and articles, until next month.

The Record.

TORONTO, JANUARY, 1854.

THE NEW YEAR.

Before the lines we are tracing shall have come under the eye of our readers, the old year will have come to a close, and the new year commenced. We shall have passed another milestone, so to speak, on the road that leads to eternity, and it becomes us to pause, and ponder, and ask ourselves the important question “whether am I hastening?” “where are my affections and hopes fixed?” “what is the ONE THING that I am doing, and that engages the thoughts and energies of my mind?” Every successive day should remind us of our mortality, and of the shortness of our earthly sojourn; but especially when another year is gone, should we be led to number our days, and apply our hearts to heavenly wisdom. There are periods, when men of the world, who are wiser in their generation than

the children of light, regard it as necessary to institute a strict and searching examination of their worldly business, that they may know whether their affairs are really prospering or not. And surely we should have seasons too of special self-communion, and self-examination, that we may, through the assistance of the Word and Spirit of God, ascertain how it really fares with our souls, whether we are really profiting by our privileges and advantages, or are becoming more worldly and more careless. Let us take a time, while the knell of the departing year is still sounding in our ears, for communing with God and with our own souls. And let us deal impartially with ourselves, and pray God to search us and know us, and to lead us in the way everlasting.

Apart from the loud call, which time as it wings its rapid flight, addresses to us, we have not been left without impressive warnings during the year now ended. Brethren and fellow-labourers have been summoned away from our side, and in their removal we may read the admonition “work while it is day, the night cometh when no man can work.” Even at this present hour, God in his adorable providence is addressing to us loud and solemn warnings. Pestilence is, as it were, knocking at our door, admonishing us to prepare, lest in such an hour as we think not, we be called hence. And from beyond the Atlantic are borne to our ears the muffled sounds of war, the issues of which we cannot foretell, but which we cannot regard in any other light than as a judgment from heaven. For war, while in certain instances it may be justifiable, must ever be deplored as a calamity and a judgment. Let us not, like some, look on these things as merely accidental, let us view them as sent by God, who is ever present throughout his vast creation, who orders and controls all events, and without whom not even a sparrow can fall to the ground. Let us hear the rod, and him that hath appointed it. Let us turn unto God with our whole hearts, while the voice of admonition is addressed to us, and before the irrevocable sentence comes forth “cut them down, why cumber they the ground.”

The review of the year that is gone may awaken mingled feelings of gladness and of sorrow. Our gratitude should surely be warmly called forth to him, who in His faithfulness hath crowned the year with his bounty, and who is loading us as a community with so many blessings both spiritual and temporal. While at the same time, we cannot but remember, with sorrow of heart, some of the events that have taken place in our Province during the year. We allude to the fatal and deplorable occurrences of last June. May we be taught to appreciate more highly, and to improve more diligently our spiritual privileges. And, may we strive more earnestly for the thorough evangelization of our land, praying for the hastening of the time when the galling yoke of Popery, which presses so heavily on the necks of thousands of our fellow-subjects, shall be broken; and the blessings of evangelical religion shall be freely experienced and enjoyed.

As to the future, we know not what is before us. Our country is in an interesting but most critical position. On the one hand, we bellow there is intellectual, and, we trust, also, spiritual progress. But, on the other hand, worldliness—deceit—unscrupulousness—are manifested by some, who from their position should act differently, if they had a spark of real patriotism, not to speak of religion. As a community we are still in a plastic state. And, if we would really advance the interests of our country, we are called upon to discountenance what is mean selfish, and dishonourable; and, to approve things that are pure, lovely, honest and of good report. The character of our country is, in a measure, to be formed by us. Let us feel our individual responsibility, and strive to exemplify, and to commend to others, those pure and lofty principles, which are set forth in the Word of God; and which alone can exalt either individual or national character.

Referring to the future, we might mention two or three matters of importance, to which, in common with many in the Province, we look with interest, and some of which, at least, we trust, may be accomplished in the course of the year now commencing. These are, a right and final settlement of the Clergy Reserves, so as to remove all jealousies and heartburnings for the time to come; the suppression of tippling-houses, the great curse of our cities, and the most fruitful source of poverty and crime; the prohibition of Sabbath labour in the Post-office and other departments of the Public Service—and a firm and decided opposition to the increasing demands of Popery. To these, and other important matters, the attention of our Legislators will soon be called. May He who has the hearts of all men in his hand direct them, and teach them to have a single eye to his own glory and the best interests of this important Province.

Let us all, under a deep sense of our responsibility, combine our energies and prayers, in order to remove the evils and vices which, alas, too extensively prevail amongst us, and to render our country moral—sober—religious. Then may we expect, that “God, even our own God, will bless us,” and that we, as individuals, as families, and, as a community, shall experience the blessedness of those “whose God is the Lord.”

THE INJURIOUS CONSEQUENCES OF INSUFFICIENT MINISTERIAL SUPPORT.

The following is an extract from an address to the Congregations under the care of the New York Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, on the subject of ministerial support. It will suit the latitude of Canada as well as that of New York, and we bespeak for it the earnest consideration of our congregations generally. We rejoice to believe that there has been of late years an improvement in this matter. But still there is room for farther improvement, especially when we take into consideration the great-