

NEW YEAR'S ADDRESS.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,—

At the coming reconnect of another year of our connexion as Pastor and people, I feel a strong desire to address a few words to you in a printed form, by way of remembrance, and in order that you may hereafter refer to them,—perhaps after the writer shall have put off his harness, and be sleeping in the dust. And in the first place, allow me to wish to every one of you a happy new year, in the fullest sense of that expression. If it please God, may your earthly lot be unclouded by sorrow, sickness, and death, but above all, may your souls prosper and be in health. May they daily grow in grace, and be adorned with all the beauty of holiness. May the love of God in Christ Jesus be abundantly shed abroad on all your hearts, so that you may be living epistles known and read of all men as joined to Christ,* shewing forth the reality of your faith in the godliness of your lives—loving one another, and so fulfilling the law of Christ†—glorifying God in your bodies and in your spirits which are his.‡ Thus may you give comfortable evidence that we have not run in vain, neither labored in vain.§

The years of our connexion in the earthly vineyard, dear brethren, are fast rolling on. Soon you and I will have to

* 2 Cor. iii. 2.

† Romans xlii. 10.

‡ 1 Cor. vi. 20.

§ Gal. ii. 2.