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THE NEW YEAR—THOUGHTS FOR THE SEASON.

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While time is unweariedly pursuing its rapid flight, and we are called upon at every step of our course to consider our present condition and our future prospects, we are on certain occasions, and particularly at the conclusion of one year and the beginning of another, specially called upon to number our days and apply our hearts to heavenly wisdom. The knell of the departing year reminds us that another important portion of our earthly course is irrevocably gone, and that we are so much nearer eternity and judgment. This should lead us, with anxious care, to enquire into our spiritual state, and see what our prospects are for eternity, and on what foundation our hopes are built. Few there are who do not indulge some kind of hope with reference to the future. But it is on one foundation alone that a good hope—a hope that will make us not ashamed—can be built. It is not on christian profession or church connexion, or religious knowledge or feelings that we can rely. It is not to our amiabilities of character, or our charities, or our fidelity in the discharge of social and relative duties that we can trust. It is not even in our penitence, or our experiences, or our efforts for the spiritual good of others that we can confide. We must personally rely on the merits of the Saviour, we must personally experience the sanctifying influences of the Holy Spirit. Other foundation than this can no man lay. To any other refuge can no one betake himself. Let, then, the season of the year to which we have been brought in the providence of God, remind us of the importance of examining ourselves whether we be in the faith, and lead us to seek to make sure in regard to our personal salvation.

Gratitude for past mercies should stir us up to more fervent love to God, and more hearty devotedness to His service. During the past year we have surely had much to be thankful for. Every one's own heart will tell him of many personal and relative blessings. As a community, we have abundant tokens of God's goodness. In the providence of God the year has been again crowned with plenty. The labours of the husbandman have not been unrewarded. While war has been raging even on our borders, we have hitherto enjoyed peace and security. We have as yet been enabled to attend our sanctuaries and to