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LOOK BACK TO THE WAY GOD HAS BROUGHT YOU.

The flight of time ought at this season to awaken deep and earnest thought.

Time is earnest, passing by;
Death is earnest, drawing nigh:
Sinner, wilt thou trifling be?
Time and Death appeal to thee.

When time is passed the soul is not quenched as a spark; nor do the interests of that deathless principle break and disappear as the foam of the sea-billows. Hence life is invested with an interest that demands the careful review of its solemn moments. Successive stages of the journey of life ought to be noted as passing away. The wintry winds have sighed out the closing days of another year. Again the opening future beams with brightness, and yet pulls down the curtain to conceal what she has in store. This we can well do—survey the past and more particularly bring up the by-gone year, and see how much of God has entered into our plans and pursuits. Remember all the way that the Lord thy God hath led thee. Think of

1st. The straits out of which he delivered you. In the changing scenes of life difficulties have come crowding in quick and overwhelming succession. Refuge failed—we have been brought low—who has helped us? God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. In temptation when our steps had well nigh slipped, and all was dark, suddenly the star of hope shines from the promise and word of God. There is no water: God brings it out of the flint. You looked for fire there, but lo water springs out of the rock. In money difficulties you saw no honourable way of meeting all claims and holding up the head as an honest man, yet man's extremity was God's opportunity. Remember

2nd. The supplies wherewith God visited you.

Food, raiment, health, reason, social enjoyments, peace—crowning the year with his goodness, all his paths drop fatness. While a neighbouring land has been torn with fearful and bloody strife, peace has reigned throughout all our borders. Surely all this springs not from our righteousness—it is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. Survey also the means of grace; to many a well of salvation has he led you. Have you taken the living water? The full and free provisions of his grace have either been welcomed or rejected. Is it truly yours to say—Bless the Lord, O my soul? Survey

3rd. The sorrows in which he sustained you.