

"O Ephraim what shall I do unto thee? O Judah what shall I do unto thee? For your goodness is as a morning cloud, and as the early dew it goeth away.—
Hosea vi. 4. *

THE present Sunday, occurring as it does on New Year's day, has its claim to a peculiar class of topics; and it is well for us, at such a time, to give them a full share of our attention. We naturally and profitably it may be hoped, turn to the changes which are incident to our condition in the present life, and think of how many of these we have witnessed in the little span of a single year. We have seen changes pass over the face of Nature: the scene around us has gone through the several revolutions which Divine Wisdom has appointed for the comfort of man. We have seen changes in Society around us: some are added to it whom in former years we knew not: some are gone from it to the silent tomb whom we had long rejoiced to know. The aspect of the times has changed. Troubled as the political atmosphere of the world was a twelvemonth ago it has become more lowering in the intermediate time; wars and rumours of wars are on every side. Our own plans, in many instances, and our prospects, it may be, have changed. A thousand designs have been formed and frustrated since we last assembled at this season, and a multitude of new ones are now in possession of our hearts, which will probably share the same fate before we celebrate it again.

But there are changes, my Brethren! of a different class, which merit more attention, changes, the influence of

* This sermon, though not one of the Advent course, was added, in consequence of a request to that effect.

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