

Editorial Department.

THE NEW YEAR.

THE old year has said "Good-bye," and his successor, with beaming countenance, greets us. Time's current, with ceaseless motion, flows ever onward, and the years come and go with such rapidity, that they are gone, and we scarcely realize the fact that they have passed away forever. It seems appropriate at such a season to look back upon the past, and while learning the lessons which experience brings, glance with hopefulness into the future. Doubtless, to many, the year just closed has been laden with rich and abundant blessings, the rugged path of life has, for them, been smoothed with many comforts and joys and their cup of mercy has been filled to overflowing. Others, there may be, who have experienced trials and sorrows, difficulties have opposed their onward progress, affliction's dark shadow has crossed their threshold and life's outlook, for them, has appeared shrouded in gloom. But to *all*, the bountiful Giver of every Good has been very kind and gracious, for even the losses and crosses of life are, to those who appropriate the lessons which they teach, blessings in disguise.

In taking a retrospect of the past year, how many have to mourn over promises of amendment broken, good resolutions not carried out, and acts of kindness and love passed over and unaccomplished. The character, which would have become stronger by the faithful discharge of daily tasks, the conscientious performance of difficult duties and the stern refusal to listen to the tempter's voice has, instead, been weakened by wilful neglect of those duties and a pliant yielding to the allurements of sin. Where duty clearly points out the way, we should always cheerfully and resolutely follow, and when temptations assail us we ought to manfully and prayerfully resist them, knowing, that in thus acting our real safety lies, and in this way only can a strong, vigorous, healthy character be built up, developed and established.

And now the new year is here. To the numerous readers of the JOURNAL we gladly extend the time-honored greeting, and sincerely trust, that in the true sense of the term, it may be to each of them, indeed "*A Happy New Year.*" Let us with brave hearts enter upon its duties, and with a firm determination to perform those duties aright. As we cross its threshold we know not what joys and sorrows, what troubles, cares and disappointments may fall to our lot, ere this year like its predecessors takes its departure from us. But whatever of good or ill the coming days may