

IV.

HOW TO ENSURE A HAPPY NEW-YEAR.¹

"Let the children of Zion be joyful in their King."—Ps. cxlix., part of the second verse.

WITH good wishes meeting us at every step, how is it that so few of God's people live really *happy* lives? There are doubtless a combination of reasons, but the principal one is the sad fact that most of them make their happiness depend on the creature, and not on the Creator. David was the representative of the human family when he said: "My soul cleaveth unto the dust." And Christians, as well as worldings, look at things seen more than at things not seen. We leave the fountain of living waters, and hew out cisterns that can hold no water. The world, with its cares, and sorrows so occupies our minds, that God and heaven have but a passing thought. We are "careful and troubled about many things," and it requires a great effort to look at our privileges, and joys. We are often asking: "What shall I eat? and what shall I drink? and wherewithal shall I be clothed?" rather than: "What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me?" I want, by God's help, to say a few words to correct this, and hope to do so by enforcing

¹ A New Year's Sermon for 1836.