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THE NEW YEAR.

MAN "turns over a new leaf" with the New Year. It is a leaf of purpose and action. God turns over a new leaf also. It is the leaf of opportunity and responsibility. Man turns the new leaf for himself. God turns it for man. The leaf that man turns for himself is a matter of choice. In the leaf that God turns, the only choice left us is what shall be written upon it.

As each new leaf of a copy-book is turned, it is fair and clean. Its appearance when finished depends upon the will and care of the learner. A book is often much the same from first to last, the same defects running through page after page. In others there is steady improvement, the defects are remedied, line after line growing better until it is like the copy.

Each New Year is a fresh, unsullied leaf, with the same blessed pattern, the Man of Nazareth, as our copy. With some, each page, on review, presents the same defects, the same sins and shortcomings outstanding year by year. Others make steady progress; defects disappear, old sins are conquered, beauties develop, the character becomes more fully rounded, in trust, patience, kindness, and love, growing more into the likeness of Christ.

With what interest a true teacher views each page as it is written. With infinitely greater interest does our Father look upon the leaf just closing in our lives. Do we see much in it unlike the copy? He sees far more. Does it seem ill-written to us? Much more so to Him. But in His infinite patience and kindness He is turning over for us a new leaf, and with yearning tenderness setting before us once more the perfect pattern, and urging us to copy it; and when we feel our helplessness, He, by His Holy Spirit, takes our weak, unsteady hand, as a teacher sometimes does that of a child, guiding it more evenly across the page.

This new leaf is one of responsibility as well as opportunity. For the blots and blur, the defects and excesses, the sin of omission and commission, with which we disfigure that new fair leaf now turned, we must give an account when our life books are closed and God's books are opened.

Resting upon the death of Christ as atonement for our sins, looking to His life as the perfect pattern, guided by His Holy Spirit, may the turned-over leaf be a closer following of the copy, than those that have gone before.

"WHAT OF THE NIGHT?"

In What is to be none can tell. What has **Turkey** been is dark and horrible; a succession of butcheries in which nigh 50,000 Armenians, solely because they call themselves Christian, have been massacred by the Turks. Large districts are pillaged, and some half a million of Armenians, with little food, clothing, or shelter are facing winter and want. Europe looks on Britain anxious to stop the carnage, but hindered by the jealousy of others who fear she might be a gainer thereby.

God can bring good out of very bad things. No jealousy of powers can stay His hand. Meantime the guilt lies with those who selfishly obstruct the hand of human mercy and justice.

One of our ministers now in Mt. Lebanon, writes to the **RECORD**, under date 18th Nov. "Somehow I feel safe, yet rumour of the most disquieting character are in free and quick circulation. The muleteers (carriers) for days past have not dared, and dare not now go, either to Damascus in the East, or to Mediterranean ports West, for the government is forcibly seizing upon every mule or other beast of burden to convey soldiers and camp equipments to Hauran, with a view to subdue the Druzes, which are said to be demolishing Mohammedan villages, east and south of Damascus.

You are aware that the native papers dare not publish a word about any such matters, and private friends in those places choose not to risk referring to disagreeable matters, even in private letters.

Mount Lebanon is comparatively well off politically, nevertheless justice has to be bought at exorbitant prices from the evermore hungry officials, and no one, unless he be a Mohammedan, need try to resist anybody who is under the Maronite or Papal hierarchy's protection."