

## TO THE READER.

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The Committee of the U. C. Religious Tract and Book Society have undertaken the publication of a second number of the "Christian Almanac," trusting in His aid whose "strength is made perfect in weakness," to render effectual this feeble instrument towards promoting an habitual connexion of Religion with the daily concerns of life; and praying that it may be made the means of leading some souls, whilst enquiring into the times, and seasons of the coming year, to ask themselves, what is to *them* the aspect of approaching Eternity?

Yes, Reader, of *approaching* Eternity; for however young, or vigorous, or healthful you may be, it is rapidly approaching towards you; and unless you habituate yourself so to think of it, be assured, it will, ere long, come upon you by surprise: and remember, that what Eternity is to you when you enter upon it, such will it be for ever and ever.

In the revolutions of Time, the dreariness of Winter is compensated by the brightness of succeeding Spring; and the gloom of the longest night is alleviated by the expectation, and vanishes on the approach, of returning day. But in Eternity there are no such changes; there it is either endless day, or endless night, and millions on millions of ages rolling by, will diminish nought of the brightness of that day, nor of the horrors of that night! No changing suns, nor waning moons ever lessen the glory which illumines the regions of immortal day, for that land "has no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it, for the glory of God doth lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof." And mark who are they that shall live in this glorious clime:—"The nations that are **SAVED** shall walk in the light thereof; and there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie." But, awful contrast! the *night* of Eternity, is no less incapable of change, or alleviation.—No ray of faintest light shall ever pierce that dismal gloom to mitigate the horrors of its lost inhabitants, or to bring a moment's respite to their despair—by an immutable decree they "are reserved unto the blackness of darkness for ever." And who are these? "The **WICKED** shall be turned into hell, and all the people that **FORGET GOD.**"

Such are the two climes of Eternity; between which "there is a great gulph fixed, so that they who would pass from one to the other, **CANNOT**;" and such are the only two descriptions of their in-