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WORK.

Kindly greetings from many happy hearts have ushered in the year 1864. What its days, weeks, and months may have in store is all unknown. We must wait for the uplifting of the curtain by a Divine hand. There are nevertheless calls to action on our part. Among these we find—Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might, for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom in the grave, whither thou goest. *There is work to be done.* We speak not now of the busy activities of secular occupation, these have only a bearing on the comforts of the present scene, in their own place they are just and proper. Beyond the sphere of meat, drink, and clothing, there is a circle of duties occupying the powers of men, and touching the shores of eternity. Labour not for the meat that perisheth, but for that meat that endureth to everlasting life. There is a twofold aspect in which what is to be done may be viewed—that which affects personal improvement and preparation for eternity—and that of serving our generation according to the will of God. We are not about to recommend any attempt to obtain salvation by working out a righteousness of our own. That plan has been tried a thousand times, but always without success. Men and Brethren, what must we do?—What must I do to be saved?—Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? Are inquires answered by pointing to the work of Christ. The personal reception of Christ is necessary to salvation. This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent. Having received the Lord Jesus we are to walk in him. Hence the many scripture exhortations to diligence, earnestness, faithfulness, and perseverance in the care of our souls. Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Is there not a great deal of this work left undone? The call to awake to righteousness comes with peculiar urgency at the opening of another year. Preparation for eternity is the most important work, yet many are careful and troubled about many things, while the one thing needful is neglected. The work to be done for Christ and his cause in the world also demands the consecration of heart, life and means. The poor and the needy, the sick and the afflicted, the ignorant and the careless are to be sought out and blessed. Sabbath Schools, Bible and Tract work, together with missionary efforts in our own and other lands, call for the hearty and prayerful toil of the friends of the Redeemer.

The work to be done is placed in favourable circumstances for its accomplishment. The hand findeth something to do. Before the hand moves, the heart feels awakened desires to do good. Desire for a good work is not mentioned as a disqualification. It came into the heart of Moses to visit his