

1789: Age 85. London, Thursday. "If this is to be the last year of my life, according to some of those prophecies, I hope it will be the best. I am not careful about it, but heartily receive the advice of the angel in Milton—

'How well is thine : how long permit to heaven.'"

1790. Age 86. London, Friday, January 1. "I am now an old man, decayed from head to foot. My eyes are dim; my right hand shakes much; my mouth is hot and dry every morning; I have a lingering fever almost every day; my motion is weak and slow. However, blessed be God, I do not *slack my labour*; I can *preach and write still*."

1791. Age 87. Mr. Wesley discontinued his Journal on October 24, 1790. From letters which the writer has seen, he was writing to Adam Clarke about the dawn of 1791. His mind was clear, although his body was feeble. His last New Year's Day, it is believed, was spent at the chapel-house in City Road.

So far as these records show, it is clear that John Wesley conducted one, two, or three religious services on New Year's Day for half a century, and a small pamphlet of hymns, specially adapted for that day, was used on those solemn occasions.—*Methodist Recorder*.

## THE NEW YEAR'S LESSON.

BY GEORGINA CRAIK.

O NEW YEAR! teach us faith;

The road of life is hard;

When our feet bleed, and scourging winds us scathe,

Point thou to Him whose visage was more marr'd

Than any man's, who saith—

"Make straight paths for your feet"—and to the opprest—

"Come ye to Me, and I will give you rest."

Yet hang some lamp-like hope

Above this unknown way,

Kind year, to give our spirits freer scope,

And our hands strength to work while it is day.

But if that way must slope

Tombward, Oh! bring before our fading eyes

The lamp of life, the hope that never dies.

Friend, come thou like a friend,

And whether bright thy face,

Or dim with clouds we cannot comprehend—

We'll hold out patient hands, each in his place,

And trust Thee to the end:

Knowing thou leadest onwards to those spheres

Where there are neither days, nor months, nor years.