

The Christian Helper.

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"Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy." II. Co. 3: 18.

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NEW YEAR'S DAY.

The practice of setting apart an hour for the public worship of God on New Year's morning, is to be commended. It is a fitting recognition of Him "whose we are and whom we serve," on this memorial day. From earliest times, the Christians attached peculiar importance to the first day of the year, because as Christmas was the day on which Christ was born, so was this the day on which He was first called by His name of *Jesus*—his name-day. "And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called *JESUS*, which was so named of the angel before He was conceived in the womb."—*Luke* ii.

21. Going back still earlier, the first day of the Jewish civil year was for them the anniversary of the first day of creation, and one which they celebrated as commanded in the law, by the observance of the "Feast of Trumpets." Besides the special ceremonial rites attaching to the feast days, this day was distinguished as a "memorial of blowing of trumpets."—*Lev.* xxiii, 24. The silver trumpets were to be blown all day long, whereby was symbolized the voice of God sounding in the ears of the people, reminding them of that great truth which embodied the alpha and omega of the Jewish creed: "I am the Lord thy God." So were they called to remember their Creator and King on the first day of the year.

Surely if Jews had reason to thank God and remember Him on New Year's Day, much more have we Christians. God's voice comes to us in the gospel of His Son—a voice that speaketh more excellent things than the sounding silver of the temple service. What better to be dwelt upon in this season of gift-making than God's "unspeakable gift?" What better to be considered in this time of well-wishing, than the first Christmas greeting of "Peace upon earth, and good will to men."

While the changing seasons and the

close of the year bid us think how all things wax and wane, come and go, and of the time coming when time itself shall be no longer, it is well at the beginning of the year, to take our stand, and to put our trust in Him, who is the same yesterday, to-day and forever. He fails not, He changes not in His person, His word, or His work. Christ is still the same Saviour who loved us from the beginning, who died for us (and in token thereof, is known in heaven as the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world) and who ever liveth to make advocacy and intercession for His people. His word is still the same for us and for all men: "Believe on Me." "Come unto Me"; "Follow after Me." And His work is ever the same: to save us from our sins, to guide and help us through life, to receive us at last from this changing world into that continuing city, which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

New Year's Day is one of God's memorial days, to remind us that our times are in His hand. Shall we not seek, as grateful children, to render to God memorials of our gratitude, and of the grace vouchsafed unto us? Can we, in this New Year, set before us any better human example to imitate, than the good Roman soldier, who first became a christian, to whom the message came from God: "Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God."—*Acts* x, 5.

Prayers and alms from such a source were precious in God's sight. They were a memorial of the man who was "devout"—devoted not to pleasure, not to business, but to God—of the man who "feared God" and whose persuasive example affected his whole family, so that with happy union, he "feared God with all his house,"—of the man who in the consecration of his substance to charity, "gave much alms to the people,"—of the man who in the complete consecration of himself to the King of kings, "prayed unto God always." *Acts* x, 2.

Let us emulate the zeal and steadfastness of this devoted captain, who served his heavenly Master well. If, with his partial light, he could so live, how many of us in the broad blaze of Christianity, have cause to hang the head? But with the New Year let us resolve anew to stand

fast and to acquit us like men. This is no time for comparison between the world and the gospel. Let the lines be clearly drawn, and let us put ourselves definitely on the Lord's side. Then indeed all epithets of happiness will be meagre to denote the peace, the blessedness of the man whose God is the Lord, whose Saviour is Christ:—and this may be the choice, the portion, the heritage of us all in this happy New Year.



ST. CATHERINE STREET BAPTIST CHURCH—MONTREAL.

In accordance with promise we place before our readers an engraving of the above commanding church-edifice. It was dedicated to the worship of God on the 21st of September, 1875, the sermon on the occasion being preached by Rev. Dr. Lorimer, of Boston. The building, as will be noticed, is of early Gothic style somewhat modified. It is 112 feet long by 68 wide, and 49 feet from floor to ceiling. It has seating accommodation for 800 persons. The interior is admirably lighted by large ground glass windows. The walls are coloured, and the galleries and pews are composed of varnished pine, stained in such a manner as to produce a varied and pleasing effect. The baptistry is a prominent feature of the church. It is situated at the back of the platform in a gothic arcade or recess, and is surmounted by the choir gallery. In the rear of the baptistry are convenient vestries for the use of candidates on baptis-