

The coming of the Lord Jesus is a year nearer! Even so, come Lord Jesus, come quickly! Come and make this Earth Thine own. Establish Thy kingdom in every heart and every land. And come with the new Heaven and the new Earth wherein dwelleth righteousness!

"Soon and forever,

Such promise our trust,

Through ashes to ashes

And dust unto dust;

Soon and forever

Our union shall be

Made perfect, our glorious

Redeemer, in Thee;

When the sins and the sorrows

Of time shall be o'er,

Its pangs and its partings

Remembered no more,

Where life cannot fail, and where

Death cannot sever,

Christians with Christ shall be

Soon and forever.

Soon and forever

The breaking of day

Shall drive all the night-clouds

Of sorrow away;

Soon and forever

We'll see as we're seen

And learn the deep meaning

Of things that have been;

When fightings without us

And fears from within

Shall weary no more in

The warfare of sin;

Where fears, where tears, and where

Death shall be never,

Christians with Christ shall be

Soon and forever.

Soon and forever

The work shall be done,

The warfare accomplished,

The victory won;

Soon and forever

The soldier lays down

His sword for a harp, and

His cross for a crown;

Then droop not in sorrow,

Despond not in fear,

A glorious to-morrow

Is brightening and near;

When (blessed reward

For each faithful endeavour)

Christians with Christ shall be

Soon and forever."

THE RECORD.

The *Record* of the United Presbyterian Church, Scotland, has reached a circulation of 54,000 copies monthly. It is now 28 years old, and its usefulness has been continually increasing. Our *Record* should have a circulation proportionately larger than that, because our membership is very widely scattered. Our membership is probably 20,000, if all were reported. There should be a copy of the *Record* to every two members. Our families probably number 17,000; it would not be extravagant to ask that a copy should reach every family. We hope ministers will do what they can when visiting families to excite their interest in the work of the Church by turning their attention to the *Record* and its contents. The *Record* is our own organ, and through its pages each congregation will learn something of the condition and working of every other congregation. Presbyteries can do much to promote our circulation by following the example of the Presbytery of St. John, and asking at visitations what number of copies are taken, &c.

THE MINISTRY OF SUFFERING IN PROVIDENCE.

Suffering serves many good purposes in the economy of Providence. We shall glance at its effects, merely as they are seen in man. Suffering is the lot of humanity. Men eat their bread in sorrow all the days of their life. All sinners are to some extent sufferers. We do not say that the present life affords no pleasure. Our earthly existence is very far from being prolonged torment. There is joy as well as sorrow mingled in the cup of human life. Our earthly experience is at best only an alloy. Neither perfect misery, nor perfect happiness is met with here. It has been said that every diamond has a flaw; and it will be found on close inspection that every jewel of pleasure has a defect. Indeed the greater number of our earthly delights are not diamonds at all, but only dew-drops that vanish at the touch. The brightest day of life has some dark cloud hovering