

3. For these words and deeds, the use or misuse of these opportunities, we must give an account.

Let our funeral service, over the part of life which has gone with the "death of the old year" be an earnest turning from the faults and follies and sins of the past to a better use of what remains. Thus will we lessen the regrets of life's ending, and leave the world the better of our having lived in it, and through the merits of Christ's atoning death, and the Holy Spirit's guidance and help, we may attain, though unworthy, to that blessed life where neither years nor death are known.

**Old and New Czar.** A few days since all Europe was bending anxiously over the sickbed of the late Czar of Russia. Forgetting for the time the cruel wrongs suffered by so many of his subjects for their political and religious opinions, men thought of him only as the conservator of the peace of Europe and of the world, feared what might follow if that strong hand should relax its grasp, and longed and prayed for his recovery. He is gone. His son reigns in his stead, and has publicly declared his purpose of following the peaceful foreign policy of his father. Better still, the indications are that a new era of liberty has dawned for Russia herself. The late Emperor had seen his father murdered by Nihilists; he lived in constant dread lest he should meet a similar fate; and no wonder if he were harsh and unsparing in his efforts to crush out their plots. At the same time his narrow, intense, devotedness to the Greek Church led to intolerance of all dissent, which so sadly marred his reign.

Both in politics and religion the new ruler has broader sympathies. His mother being a sister of the Princess of Wales, he is closely allied with the English Royal family, has been with them not a little, and has imbibed much of the Western spirit of freedom. Before coming to the throne, it is said that he had declared to his father his abhorrence of the persecution of the Jews, and since his accession some of his few official acts have been those of clemency. He ordered that during the funeral ceremonies of his father the persecution of students suspected of Nihilistic tendencies should cease, and countermanded an order given by some of his ministers that the Poles should take the oath of allegiance anew in the Russian tongue.

There is no one living upon whose word the weal or woe of so many depends. At that word the nameless horrors of Siberian political exile would cease, the cruel persecution of Jews and Stundists would end, and the dark night of gloom and dread which has so long rested like a nightmare upon Russia would gradually give place to the light and liberty of a free people.

Important as it seemed to be that the Christian world should pray for life for the late Emperor, it is of far greater importance that earnest prayer should be offered that his successor may be given wisdom and strength to discharge the duties of his high office. Already it seems as if God had answered the real wish of the world for the life of the late Emperor by denying its letter and setting a more liberal ruler upon Russia's throne.

Kings may come and go, dynasties and nations rise and fall, but God reigns, and no change in the affairs of men will be permitted to thwart His all wise plans.

**Woman's Influence.** "At the starting point of nearly every minister's life stands a Christian mother. Dr. Potts requested all of the students in Princeton Theological Seminary who had praying mothers to rise up, and in an instant nearly the whole one hundred and fifty were on their feet. There they stood, a living witness of the power of a mother's prayers and a mother's shaping influence and example."

"It is scarcely a figure of speech to say that 'woman is the corner-stone of heathenism.' Notwithstanding their degradation, heathen mothers have immense power over their sons. The fear of a mother's curse prevents many a Chinaman from listening to the claims of the Gospel. An intelligent Hindu exclaims: "It is the women who maintain the system of Hinduism." Christ and His Gospel are the only levers that have raised the nations. But in all the Orient only a woman's hand can adjust these levers to the corner-stone."

These two items, from different pages of the *Philadelphia Presbyterian*, both teach the truth of the old proverb—"The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world." What a call to the women of Christian lands to give to their heathen sisters that Gospel which will lead them to bring up their children for Christ, and in this way give Him the heathen for His inheritance.

**To Those Who Tithe.** A gentleman whose experience in tithing was published in a previous issue said, in forwarding it; "I have hesitated sending the above, as giving experience savors of egotism, but if others can be stimulated to good works, and God can be glorified thereby, it is sufficient reason." To all who are hesitating for the same reason, we would commend the closing sentence of the above statement. There is no commendation of Christianity like the experience of those who have tried it, and the same is true of any part of the Christian life, whether it be giving, trusting, praying, working, or any other part. If you have tried tithing and found it good, do not withhold from others the knowledge of the good. There is no publicity. Kindly send your experience in the matter, how you were led to adopt it, and how you like it.