

THE CANADIAN United Presbyterian Magazine.

VOL. VIII.]

TORONTO, JANUARY, 1861.

[No. 1.]

Miscellaneous Articles.

NEW YEAR'S ADDRESS.

It were foolish and wrong, had we the power, to dismiss from the mind all thought about the year that is gone, though doubtless that on which we have entered is of more concern to us. Our improvement and enjoyment of the present and the coming very much depend on our remembrance of the past, and the use to which we turn its varied events and experiences. The year just ended has been witness to actions and resolves, and has read lessons of experience that may not be forgotten without loss and criminality on our part. Blessings have been received that demand our further and continued gratitude. And have there not been duties neglected, and sins committed, that need still to be confessed and repented of, and for which forgiveness has yet to be sought and secured? Were there no purposes formed and vows made that have yet to be implemented? Have our disappointments, griefs, and losses, accomplished in, and for, us their designed mission? If not it is well that their painful scars remain, that thereby we may be more humbled and subjugated to the will of God, and led to set less by "the things that are seen and temporal," and more by those "things that are unseen and eternal." Such is, no doubt, the design of what we deem the *ills* of life. And they are verily *ills* if we bear them stoically, and forget them speedily—if they leave the heart harder or more heedless than before.

It is undeniable that the past year has left a large legacy of work to be performed by us during the present. It has left heavy drafts on our duty which it behoves us to see duly honoured during the year on which we have entered.

What a debt of gratitude we owe for blessings vouchsafed during the past year to us, to our families, to our country, to the church