

## AN XMAS. GREETING TO ALL OUR FRIENDS.



It the close of the year 1889 we wish to thank all our friends who have combined to make it the most pleasant and profitable in our business career. WE certainly have done OUR best to make our dealing together not only pleasant, but profitable to us all. In looking back over the year now drawing to a close, we can see many errors we have made, and possibly a few enemies, owing to the liberal way in which, in our judgment, we think business should be done. We started out on January 2nd, 1889, to "get there," and we HAVE got there just the same, which reminds us of a very good story which we once heard, proving that a man CAN "get there" if he makes up his mind to do so, and in this same story there is a very good lesson to be learned. Read, mark and learn it.

## GOT THERE JUST THE SAME.

"An old preacher, whose name we will call Birch, was famous for preaching on the subject of paying offold debts. One of his auditors, who had been wearied with Brother Birch's iteration on the subject, once said to a neighboring minister:—'I wish you would suggest a subject that I can give Brother Birch, out of which he cannot get anything about paying off old debts.' Give him the conversion of Saul of Tarsus,' said the minister. Soon after this the wearied brother met his pastor, and said:—'Brother Birch, I would like to hear you preach a sermon on the conversion of Saul of Tarsus. Won't you do it?' 'Certainly,' said the pastor. 'It is a capital subject. I will preach on it next Sunday.' On the following Lord's Day, Brother Birch announced the text, Acts IX., 6:—'Lord what wilt Thou have me to do?' and opened thus:—'My brethren, I shall preach to you to-day on the conversion of Saul of Tarsus. Saul, my brethren, was a truly converted man, and my sermon will be a discussion of the marks of genuine conversion. And the first mark, my brethren, of a genuine conversion is that a man will always pay off his eld debts."

Again wishing you one and all a very Happy New Year and a prosperous business during the coming year, we are as ever, yours faithfully,

## THAYER & CO.,

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