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A NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

BY REV. J. R. LAIRD

What mean these bells resounding now
afar "o'er ocean's wave-beat shore?"
"The old year's dead! The new year's
born!" they say; but carry, further-
more,

This greater message to each soul:
"Eternity is drawing nigh."

Thus speak these clamoring tongues of
iron whose music floats thro' earth
and sky.

They ring a year's march toward the
sunset at the close of life's fair day;
Another year's march toward that City
where all burdens down we lay;
Another year's march toward the glories
in the "haven of the blest;"
Another year's march toward the man-
sions "where the weary are at rest."

We may stand on Pisgah's mountain, if
we climb from vales below;

Breathe the atmosphere of angels more
of peace and heaven know;

Far upon the heights of Nebo we may
see the self-life die.

And go forth to holier living as eternity
draws nigh.

Standing there upon the summit as the
Old Year flits away,

We may see unfold before us dawn tints
of the eternal day;

While from mystic future ages, in a
strain that ne'er shall cease.

Float to us angelic voices, blending in
the songs of peace.

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