

on the countenance that was once beautiful. Thus it is that sin, Satan and our own evil hearts too often deform God's handywork.

But there is another temple more beautiful than all the rest. Every stone in it is bought at a very great cost. Every one is polished and renewed. You may read about the foundation of this temple by turning to 1 Cor. 3-11, and about the stone in it in 1 Cor. 3-9.

You will find the cost of the stones in Titus 2-14 and 1 Peter 1-19. And you will find all about what kind of a temple it is by reading Eph. 2-20.

Now read all these passages and you will see something of the design of the Builder. Surely stones that cost so much should make a beautiful temple,

But I need not tell you that all our badness must be removed, our desires set on purer objects, and that our actions must all be better before we can take a place in this building. We must be cut and polished just the same as the big rough stones are fitted for the other building.

Some children may say this temple is only for great and good men. I may tell you that the children are just as needful to this building as the little stones are to the other. If only a little one were wanting, this beautiful temple would not be perfect. All the great and good men and women are like the big stones in the building, but the children who belong to Jesus are the gems by which the palace is adorned. Therefore, children, aim to occupy a place in it. What that place will be greatly depends on what your aims are—whether the heart is pure or not. The wise master-builder has laid the foundation. He prepares all the stones, large or small, for their right place. His own words are: "Behold I will lay thy stones with fair colors, and thy foundation with sapphires, and I will make thy windows of agates and thy gates of carbuncles and all thy borders of pleasant stones. And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord, and great shall be the peace of thy children."

Bear trials and resist temptations, for he has said, "Him that overcometh I will make a pillar in the temple of my God."

Thus the whole building fitly framed together will grow into a holy temple of the Lord.

HOW TO PASS FROM THE OLD INTO THE NEW YEAR,—One, when dying, said, "My last act of faith I wish to be to take the blood of Jesus, as the high priest when he entered within the veil; and, when I have passed the veil, I would appear with it before the throne." So in making the transit from one year to another this is one most appropriate exercise. We see much sin in the retrospect; we see many a broken purpose, many a mispent hour, many a rash and unadvised word; we see much pride, and anger, and worldliness, and unbelief; we see many a long track of inconsistency. There is nothing for us but the great atonement. With that atonement let us, like believing Israel, end and begin anew. Bearing its precious blood, let us pass within the veil of a solemn and eventful future. Let a visit to the Fountain be the last act of the closing year; and let a new year still find us there.—*Hamilton.*