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The New Year.

The Year 1897 is gone; the Year 1898 is begun. And therefore our first word to all our readers shall be one of New Year's good wishes and hearty desires. May the coming months bring with them health and happiness, peace and prosperity in the Home, the Parish and the Diocese.

The passing of the old and the beginning of a new period of time is always an occasion for self-examination and the making of fresh resolutions. And in this matter, as it seems to us, we may learn much from the following lines, discovered only two or three years ago, written in the Parish Register of an ancient country Church in Warwickshire, England. The Vicar, who wrote them, was in charge of the Parish during the troublous times of 1639 to 1663:

"VOWS BROKEN AND RENEWED."

"Said I not so, that I would sin no more?
 Witness, my God, I did;
 Yet I am run again upon the score,
 My faults cannot be hid.
 What shall I do? Make vows and break
 them still?
 'Twill be but labour lost;
 My good cannot prevail against mine ill,
 The bus'nesse will be crost.

O say not so; thou canst not tell what strength

Thy God may give thee at the length;
 Renew thy vows, and if thou keep the last,
 Thy God will pardon all that's past:

Vow, whilst you canst; while thou canst
 vow, thou may'st

Perhaps performe it, when thou thinkest
 least.

Thy God hath not denied thee all,
 Whilst he permits thee but to call:
 Call to thy God for grace to keep
 Thy vows: and if thou break them,
 weep.—

Weep for thy broken vows, and vow again;
 Vows made with tears cannot be still in
 vain.

Then once again
 I vow to mend my ways;
 Lord, say 'Amen,'
 And Thine be all the praise."

**The Bishop's Engagements
during January.**

Saturday, January 1st (Circumcision of our Lord and New Year's Day)—Celebrate the Holy Communion at the Cathedral at 8 a.m. Reception at Bishopsthorpe 2.30 to 6 p.m.
 Sunday, January 2nd — Preach at S. Michael's Church, Bergerville, 11 a.m., and assist at the Cathedral at Evensong.