

THE NEW YEAR.

We have passed another milestone in life's journey. Are we better than when we crossed the threshold of 1888? Is our present the future we desired it to be a year ago? We know the present is the future of the years that have passed, and it is the present that makes our future. If not satisfied with our present future, will we be satisfied with the eternal future that is yet to come? These are solemn, important questions, and when we consider the fact that on this life hangs our eternal destiny, it causes us to be very thankful to our Father in heaven that we are spared to enter this new year and are still between the eternities.

Many who entered the old year with us are gone. Their chances and opportunities for improvement and advancement in Divine life ended with the old year. If to us the new year is but the old year repeated, our lease of life is none less than a calamity, as the great end of life is to improve our lives and to live for that life which has no end. When we cease to grow better we cease to live.

We often lament the loss of property and mourn the loss of friends, but how much deeper our regrets should be over lost opportunities. The mistakes of the past are mistakes forever. While God may forgive us our sins, He doesn't remove the scars on our nature caused by sin. The only way to hide the scars is by growth. The only possible way, therefore, to modify the evil effects of the past is by rightly improving the present. It is this proper conception of life that should make us doubly thankful for this "new year." We should be very careful in this year not to repeat the mistakes of the past. Some one has said, "To stumble twice against the same stone is a proverbial disgrace." It will be well for us to look over the mistakes of the past, as it will help us to redeem the present. If we have been careless we should awake out of sleep—we should no longer be dreaming, but doing; we should make up for lost time, giving our best thoughts and care to the things that will not perish but will endure unto eternal life. Our prayer should be, "Lord, so teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." In view of our great life work we need to number and know our days, so that we may rightly improve every moment. If we have a job of work to do, but no special time specified in which to do it, we will not work so hard as we would if the job had to be completed in a certain number of days. This work of building character is a big job we have on hand, and requires all our time. It is not enough to number our days, but to so number them that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. The good results are in the application. We must know what is right and apply it to our hearts.

This should be the question in the beginning of 1889: "How shall I rightly improve the time?" If this year is to be a better one than last year, we will need to be very careful, and attend to the use of all our time. We should look after the Now. The present moment is the one to improve. We are too apt to put off what we can do now to some future time. "We should take care of the seconds, and the hours will take care of themselves." We should have some regular order, some particular time for every interest, and be sure and follow the order. This would prevent the two extremes of some days overwork and other days no work. We should take special care not to let our temporal secular wants engage all our time. Give to the mind its due portion of time. Read much, study more, think most. He who neglects the cultivation of his mind for any other consideration makes a mistake that time nor eternity can never mitigate. We should give time for the study of God's word. The precious influences of His word cannot be felt upon our nature unless it dwells in us richly. We

must "hide His word in our hearts" in order to overcome evil. Don't neglect this all-important duty. Commence this year, if you never have before, and set apart a portion of the 365 days for the purpose of impressing the word of God upon your heart. "There is nothing greater in the world than man and nothing greater in man than the soul." We may add to this that nothing will make the soul great like the word of God when proper attention is given to it. Let this saying of Christ, "Search the Scriptures," be our motto for 1889. Suppose we read four chapters a day; this may take us an half-hour, if we read slowly and carefully. We will read the New Testament through five times at this rate during the year. Who can estimate the purifying and elevating influence this will have on our natures? How can it be possible for us to live beautiful without constantly increasing in the knowledge of God? How many will try this? How few will be our opportunities for fitting our souls for heaven! How the years hurry! As we grow older our birthdays come oftener. "The night is far spent; the day is at hand. Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light." Let us make this new year the best and happiest year of our life.

H. MURRAY.

News of the Churches.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

ST. JOHN ITEMS.

Three additions since last month—two by confession and obedience, and one by letter.

A children's service was held last Lord's day evening. The exercises consisted of singing by the children, reading of scripture and an appropriate address by Bro. Capp.

Last Lord's day morning Bro. Capp gave us a review of the work done by the church during the year, in which he stated the amount of money raised from all sources was \$1800; additions to church 16, and one death occurred in our ranks during the year. Twelve preachers had visited us from other churches. The discourse was timely and encouraging. We look forward for a better work during the coming year.

LORD'S COVE.

Our work is progressing favorably here on this rock-bound isle of the sea. I believe it is considered that this church has never been in a more prosperous condition than what it is at the present time. Financially, numerically and spiritually our brethren are moving onward. The year 1888 passes away leaving this congregation in the midst of peace, happiness and prosperity.

Since our last report three have been baptized here who are heads of families, and at our last meeting another (a promising young man) came forward, confessed the Saviour, and is yet to follow in the beautiful ordinance of Christian baptism. One more has also been induced to start anew in the path which leads to heaven, and help to swell the numbers of this congregation. The outlook for 1889 is very encouraging, and we are all very hopeful that the efforts put forth here to advance the Redeemer's kingdom will be crowned with abundant success. I am about to begin the new year's work under the most favorable auspices, having, I believe, the Christian sympathy and hearty support of every individual member. From the oldest to the youngest, each one have cheered me onward and bade me God speed.

'Tis sweet to toil in such a field,
And scatter seeds of truth;
The harvest, then, a fruitful yield,
While age renews its youth.

I love to see the church alive
And dwell in peace and love,
And every individual strive
To gain a home above.

BEAN'S ISLAND.

This island is largely owned by Bro. Benjamin Simpson. It was my privilege to hold services once here and administer the ordinance of baptism to one who had resolved to become a Christian. On the morning of Nov. 19th, Bro. Henry Stuart, with his sailing vessel, conveyed a number of us over from Deer Island. We all enjoyed the trip very much, and intend at no distant day to hold services again here and see if we cannot induce others also to start in the path of life which leads to those heavenly mansions beyond the dark sea. Since our meeting the husband of the one baptized has resolved to follow his wife, and start for that better land. May God grant that finally this family may be welcomed home amid the anthem of angels and the music of the heavenly choir. Then

To dwell in that bright future world,
Where time's rough angry waves ne'er roll;
There they can rest their weary head
In the bright home-land of the soul.

LEONARDVILLE.

The church here is moving on very favorably. Our congregations are large and the general outlook is good; in fact, the brethren are living in peace, and we are also about to begin our year's work here, having every reason to expect a year of prosperity and happiness. We have a noble band of brethren in this vicinity, this being, in fact, one of our best congregations. Two have here of late confessed the Saviour. They were in the bloom of youth, and we trust they will develop into a beautiful manhood. They were baptized at the Northwest Harbor and received into the fellowship of this congregation. We are expecting others to follow and help to lead the embattled hosts on to victory—

Where in that bright home in heaven
We may dwell forever more.

LE TETE, CHARLOTTE CO.

I have been holding services at the church here during a part of each week for the last month. Our work, however, under the circumstances, has been too laborious. During two weeks we met together twenty-six times—this included baptismal and funeral services. About a half-dozen have been induced to return to the church here and continue in the Christian warfare. The prospects are gradually brightening, and a number are on the eve of coming to the Saviour. Bro. J. A. Gates, with his indefatigable wife, did a good work here, and it is to be regretted that this church should have been so long neglected and left without a shepherd. Bro. P. D. Nowlan is now pastor of this congregation, but, owing to sickness and other engagements, he has been unable to meet with us only semi-occasionally. Bro. Nowlan's preaching is highly spoken of, and he needs the sympathy and prayers of the brotherhood in his work of faith and labor of love. May God richly bless him forever. I have enjoyed myself very much with the people here in Le Tete. I have visited nearly every family throughout the length and breadth, from Mascarine to Green's Point. Here, at the last named place, is located the fog horn signal. I have had the pleasure frequently of visiting Bro. and Sister George Hallem and Bro. and Sister Sydney Dines, who reside here and have charge of the signal. Sister Dines is a daughter of Bro. J. A. Gates, and is active and energetic, and an honor to her laborious parents. I am still continuing our meetings here in the midst of storms, but have to return each Saturday to continue our work on the island. Different ones have kindly offered to take me back and forth in sailing vessels, and have made everything as pleasant as they possibly could;