

## Sunday Reading.

### The Old Year.

The average term of human life is thirty-three years. During this period at least eight hundred millions of human beings live and die. Then, we may safely conclude that since last New Year's day, the thirty-third part of our existence has passed.—How solemn the reflection that another one of these few years allotted to us on earth is gone to return no more. Then, as we stand upon the retiring verge of the year, let us give ourselves to serious reflection.

And, first of all, let devout thanks be given to Almighty God for his manifold mercies. While thousands of our race, during the past year, have been the subjects of dire misfortune, we have had food and raiment,—health and friends,—comfortable homes, and the use of our reason; we have had the Bible and the Spirit,—the Sabbath and the minister,—the constant offer of grace here and of glory hereafter. Blessed be God for having preserved our lives until the present time, and for all that temporal and spiritual goodness of which we have been the favored recipients!

But who is able to retrospective the past without being humbled by a sense of his numerous shortcomings and transgressions? Could we glance over the book of remembrance which the Almighty keeps, what an almost continuous record of sins committed and of duties neglected would there meet our eyes. Who is able to compute the number of evil thoughts, unkind words, and impious acts of which he has been guilty during the past year;—and who is able to number the times that he has failed to pray,—to forgive,—to reprove,—to feel grateful,—to read the Scriptures,—to meditate,—to attend divine service,—to give to the poor and for the support of the Gospel,—to exert, in every possible way, a holy influence upon those with whom he has had intercourse? Without dwelling upon the gloomy picture until despair shall paralyze our energies, let us go immediately to the mercy seat, and plead, humbly, penitently, and in faith, plead the great sacrifice. Let us see that our account with our Maker is canceled before the beginning of the New Year. Let us be sure that iniquity is not accumulated from year to year, until the dark account shall so appal us that we can have no heart to cry for mercy.

But all genuine penitence is based upon the fixed purpose of reformation. Do we intend next year to abandon the sins which we have so far committed? Do we intend to take up the crosses which we have shunned, and to discharge all the duties which we have failed to perform? The Lord for Christ's sake, give us grace to make the fixed resolve. For, unless we come to this determination, we cannot get forgiveness for the past.

And surely it behoves us to do more than the future; for, judging from the past, more than twenty-four millions of people will die ere the expiration of twelve months more. And if as many persons as are now to be found in the United States are thus soon to be hurried away, have we any assurance that we shall not be among the number? Ere the lapse of another year may a fallen spirit find a habitation in hell. We are driven to the startling and awful conclusion that thousands and hundreds of thousands will take up their abode in the dolorous regions before the earth shall have made another revolution around the sun. Are you, reader, still unconvinced and unmoved?

During the ensuing year many a wayward pilgrim to Zion will arrive safely at home. We are warranted in the conclusion that every hour will witness the introduction of a score of blood-washed immortals into the enduring glories of the Heaven of heavens. Their broken hearted ones whose meat and drink are tears, look up to the sunlit plains of the celestial Paradise! It may be that they last three of anguish will have been felt, and thy last gaze upon sublunar things will have been forgotten, ere the harvests of the ensuing year shall be gathered in.

"How few and wretched are thy days,  
Man of a sorrowful heart!  
Thou didst not count thy days  
As though a day spring to light,  
Youthful bloom with the bays,  
Age, a throning age, a stuporous night,  
Man like a shadow does.  
All fail the waters from the deep,  
As summer leaves can dry,  
Man in his hours of darkness sleep:  
Our life is vanity."

Many have no more to wake,  
Till yonder arched spire,  
Stands with a roll of thunder break,  
And notes its power,  
Oft hide all hill with its peal,  
Then, with each bell in view,  
Hills, whose tops may never cast  
To my Rodon's grave!"

**EXPERIMENTAL THEOLOGY.**  
An intelligent young lady called upon one of our city pastors to converse upon religious subjects. She had been educated entirely under Unitarian influences, and had contracted a strong prejudice against the evangelical system and its preachers. She had devoted much attention to "religious culture," and strongly endeavored to form her character by the precepts of the gospel, as she heard them explained. But finding her efforts unsuccessful, she was led to inquire into the cause of their failure. She did not once imagine that it was attributable to any defect in her system, and she could not discover, upon careful review that she had acted the wrong. But she was conscious of a want which became the more sensible as she pursued her investigations. Many a week she passed in a state of mind and perplexity, not knowing why she failed, or what she needed. At length, by the persuasion of a friend, she called upon an evangelical minister in her vicinity, and her reply to his

### DEFERRED ARTICLES.

#### "FREE SUFFRAGE."

The defeat of the Free Suffrage Bill has thrown the Editor of the "Standard" into a spasmodic fit of wrath and indignation.—The High Priests of the Party, and especially His Excellency *de jure*, appear to be in deep distress! All hope of consolation has fled, and a heavy cloud of despondency has settled upon the future plans and prospects of the "unterrified." And this brought about, too, by one of their household! "Etsa hata?" drops in deep, guttural tones from the lips of every one, who, confiding in the power and infallibility of the Standard, had, but a week or two since, proclaimed with an arrogant air of triumph, "Free Suffrage SHALL pass!"

It is well known that the Senator from Warren (Mr. Edwards,) was elected on the ground of his opposition to this measure.—He and his friends, no doubt as true "Democrats" as any in the State, made that the main issue in the campaign. This was known to the Party, when the Legislature convened, and with such knowledge they could for him for the Speaker of the Senate. On Friday last, the vote was taken on the Free Suffrage Bill, and stood 33 for and 15 against it. The vote of Speaker Edwards for the measure would have given the constitutional majority. But true to the principles he professed before his constituents, and shrinking from no just responsibility, his vote was withheld, and Free Suffrage was defeated! By this act—done in accordance with the will and wishes of his constituents—Mr. Edwards has brought himself under the heavy and galling fire of his own Party battery. The Standard pours a broadside into him with a most terrible vengeance:

"The Speaker (Edwards) in declining to vote, DELIBERATELY DEFEATED THE BILL; it had voted in the affirmative the bill should have passed!"  
This is no time to argue the question. A great principle of free government has been outraged, trampled under, spurned from the Senate Chamber, by the AMBROGIAN and SOLE SUFFICIENT FEW!"

Then how stands the matter? If the Speaker's vote could have secured the passage of the bill, and he deliberately withheld that vote, was not the bill defeated by the Speaker? Of course, this is the very same question to which the "Standard" has come. There is, however, another sequence resulting from this affidavit that the Standard and his Party cannot evade, viz: that the bill was defeated by a Democrat. This very Democrat, the Party voted to place in the Speaker's Chair, endeavoring the genuineness of his Democracy, and giving weight to his opinions on all subjects, whether connected with State or National politics, by nothing him with the honor and power of a high office!

How the world ends is a mystery to me, but I am sure that all I can do is to let the world know that I do not believe in any party, or in any man, who would be doing one's self and one's country a greater injustice than I do to assist them all. I could do no more, and I am sorry for it.

Those who have liberally patronized me for the last number of years, I remain your grateful acknowledgments, and assure you my continued and constant feeling confident that it will be to your interest to do so. I am occupying a room in Charlotte, on Main-street, near Mr. J. B. Kerr's Hotel, and nearly opposite R. H. Bradburn's new building.

May 28, 1852. 17c.

**Clock and Watch Repairing.**

### REMOVAL.

MR. W. BECKWITH has removed his SHOP at the house lately occupied by the Harriet's Nest Furniture Co., where he will please to receive any one who may care to do so on his arrival.

February 14, 1852. 17c.

**J. A. FOX,**  
Attorney at Law,

W. H. DILLON practices in the surrounding Counties.

He will attend to the application of his name to the office of Sheriff, or to the setting of previous and former offices.

14, No. 24, Bay St., Room, Charlotte, January 15, 1852.

**A. C. WILLIAMSON,**  
Attorney at Law,

CHARLOTTE, N. C.

WILL practice in this and the adjoining counties, and will attend to all professional services connected with his office.

Charlotte, January 26, 1852. 17c.

**LOUIS NAPOLEON.**

The New York Courier and Spyler thinks the world has been greatly mistaken in the character of Louis Napoleon, and that the world is beginning to find it out.

In the course of his remarks, the Courier says:

"It so happened that when in the winter of 1846 he landed in this city from Brazil, where he had been exiled by Louis Philippe, we were the first acquaintance he made in this country; and his first landing in the United States was spent at our table, in company with General Scott and other guests. This circumstance was the cause of our seeing much of him while in this country; and we subsequently saw a great deal of him in London. The result of our intercourse was conviction that he was a man of far greater talents than the world gave him credit for, and that considering the peculiar character of the French people, it was impossible to predict his future. There was one man in England, however, who fore-saw and predicted the fate of Louis Napoleon, and that man was the late Sir Robert Peel. He saw more of the exile than any of the statesmen of England; and he not only declared him to be a man of extraordinary talents, but he also predicted that if he lived, "he would inevitably beat the last King once in a century."

He went accordingly to the bar, and deposited the sacred treasure in a safe place, with much prayer that it might bless even him who would not allow it to remain in his house.

The man, struck with the unexpended reply of distributor, was led to think of his own baseness and guilt, and especially of his son's birthplace. After two or three days his distress became so great that he went out to the bar in search of the ejected volume. He turned to the passage which records the circumstances connected with the birth of the Redeemer, and slept restfully, and peacefully, all night.

The Courier goes on to state its opinion that there is great danger in the future to England, of an invasion by France, and to show that the creation of the Empire is with the fall of Napoleon of Russia and Austria.

It may be that they last three of anguish will have been felt, and thy last gaze upon sublunar things will have been forgotten, ere the harvests of the ensuing year shall be gathered in.

**A BIBLE LEFT IN A BARN.**

When the committee of a Bible Association in the State of New York, were making exertions to supply every destitute family with a copy of the "Book of Life," a distribution was effected at a house, where he met an angry repulse.

The man, who was the head of the family, was

very wretched, and his wife, and children, were

very poor.

He said, "I have no money to pay for it."

He then said, "I will sell it to you."

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