

For the Review.

The Old Year.

BY EUGENE THOMPSON.

The year is growing hoary,
It has nearly told its story,
And the power it had is slipping from its failing
grasp away;
If we vain would keep it longer,
Till its influence is stronger,
All our prayers may not detain it, it must languish
and decay.

It has lived its life of duty,
It has filled the world with beauty.
It brought the loving sunshine of the ever happy
Spring;
It crowned the earth with flowers,
In the lingering Summer hours,
When it seemed that every creature did for very
pleasure sing.

Then it brought the Autumn glowing,
With its wealth of plenty, showing
How the Father loves his children, and will give
them daily food;
And it made the land so cheery,
That the singers grew not weary
Of proclaiming the glad message, that God wills his
people good.

Is it therefore any wonder,
That we sigh the while we ponder,
On the coming swift departure of our own familiar
friend?
That the year and skies together,
And the weeping wintry weather,
All unite in lamentation that the intercourse must
end?

Nay, but let us bend the rather,
In thanksgiving to our Father,
Who granted from his treasury another useful year;
Let us pray to be forgiven,
All the evil that has striven
To prevent the good we longed for; and we know
that he will hear.

And if he should send another
Young and strong to greet as brother,
God give us grace to use it better than we did the
past;
So that it may tell its story
To that Father's praise and glory,
And thus prove that we were learning all the lessons
of the past.

Wisdom from the Wayside.

Common feelings are the strongest lessons in mutual forbearance.

It often seems more difficult to preserve a blessing than to obtain it.

It is astonishing how long a man may look through a crowd without discovering a friend.

If we were all permitted to put our own valuation on ourselves there would be no low-priced men in the world.

The more gross the fraud the more glibly it will go down, and the more greedily it will be swallowed, since folly will always find faith wherever imposters will find impudence.

He who speaks ill of another, commonly, before he is aware, makes himself such an one as he speaks against; for if he had civility or good breeding, he would forbear such language.

If my biographer gives me credit for being a plodder he will describe me justly. Anything beyond this is too much. I can plod. I can persevere in my definite pursuit. To this I owe everything.—*William Cary.*

A right use of the opportunities of instruction afforded me in early youth, would have made me a scholar ere my twenty-fifth year, and have saved me at least ten of the best years of my life.—*Hugh Miller.*

A great man under the shadow of defeat is taught how precious are the uses of adversity; and, as an oak-tree's roots are strengthened by its shadow, so all defeat in a good cause are but resting places on the road to victory at last.—*Chas. Sumner.*

A drunkard is the annoyance of modesty, the trouble of civility, the spoil of wealth, the distraction of reason. He is the brewer's agent, the tavern and ale house benefactor, the beggars companion, the constable's trouble. He is his wife's woe, his children's sorrow, his neighbors scoff, his own shame.

Nature has placed mankind under the government of two sovereign masters—pain and pleasure. It is for them alone

to point out what we ought to do as well as determine what we shall do. On the one hand the standard of right and wrong; on the other the chain of causes and effects are fastened to their throne.—*Bentham.*

I desire to find in books, not what may be blamed, but what may be praised, and that from which I may learn something. This course is not exactly in fashion; but it is the most useful. Nevertheless, though there are few books or persons in whom I cannot find something of use to me. I know how to make a difference in granting them my confidence.—*Godfrey Wilhelm von Leibnitz.*

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