

P R E F A C E.

WHAT! another year gone? Yes, another, and once again are we called to address our beloved brethren and sisters in our adorable Lord, by way of annual salutation.

Beloved, we have experienced another year's mercies—have traversed for another twelve months the wilderness—and are that much nearer our eternal home; thanks to our gracious Conductor!

The past is gone—gone for ever! With the future we have nothing whatever to do. The present only—and truly it is but a fleeting moment—is ours. He who hath been with us in time past—is with us in time present—will assuredly be with us in time future. He that hath supported us in trials past—is upholding us in trials present—will undoubtedly sustain us in trials future. For deliverances past we adore Him—for mercies present we praise Him—for remembrances future we trust Him;

and, adopting his own most gracious exhortation, "Take therefore no thought for the morrow, for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself," we exclaim, with the poet—

" 'Tis enough that *Thou* shouldst care,
Why should *we* the burden bear?"

To our Correspondents we have again to tender our thanks; and, ere we tread the threshold of another year, would suggest—would entreat with all earnestness—that the pacific language which has been used, may still be employed. We are concerned—we acknowledge the fact—lest in the investigation of truth, any root of bitterness should be permitted to spring up among us—*brethren*. Recollect we *are* brethren—we meet from time to time in these pages as such; yea, we march—a little band—towards Zion, under the royal standard of Immanuel, with the significant motto floating upon its surface, "SEE THAT YE FALL NOT OUT BY THE WAY, FOR YE ARE BRETHREN." If error among *false brethren* has to be attacked; if the encroachments of some foe under a specious form, be a matter of certainty, we care not how strong or powerful the defensive weapons, as long as they be scriptural; but, in discussing points of difference *between brethren*, we call loudly for forbearance, and enter our protest, most decidedly, against the adoption of harsh phraseology.

With respect to the state of the professing Church, and the aspect of the times generally, we feel more disposed to "stand still and see the salvation of God," than to offer any comments of our own; assured that whatever may come—be the crisis at our doors what it may—

" All must come, and last, and end,
As shall please our heav'nly Friend."

Readers! from the lisping babes to the fathers in Christ, we wish you all a crowning blessing with which to close the present year. The Lord of all lords be with you in the gracious manifestation of his favour and good-will; and should it have been arranged in covenant love that we shall meet within these pages again, at the close of 1844, may it be with equal cause for gratitude as at the present: how, indeed, can it be otherwise, seeing He with whom we have to do, and in whose hands "our times" are, is the same "yesterday, to-day, and for ever?"

Brethren and Sisters, we subscribe ourselves

Your willing Servant,

THE EDITOR.

London, December 1, 1843.