RESOLVE TO BE BETTER.

NEW YEAR is regarded as the time when a man should stock his past and present and make resolutions concerning the future. It is well to make resolutions and, if it is better than some other purpose even if not kept, though they should not be made with the idea of breaking them, but with the idea of gaining good resolutions and thereby gain an advantage. Do not resolve to be poorer next year, but resolve to be better. Resolve to improve in everything in which you are defective. Decide to improve your social manners; to be more pleasant, work more diligently, give more cheerfully. Don't try to achieve the perfect, which is impossible. Just try to do your best, have a good year, and you will be better for trying for it. No minute or hour of solar time begins this new year. The moment your present is one of the number of one. Time's true calendar is in the spirit of man. Then every day should be treated as the day of a new and better life—greeted with new sensibilities, new ideas, new purposes—so that life may never wither, but keep eternally young and ready to learn and as full of wonder as the eyes of the Child who sits in the Simple Madonna's arms. God's mercy rules over the past, but mercy is not the same as justice. Our hopes face hopefully toward the new. Pass out of the old and enter into the new, and sacrifice upon the altar of the fresh, fair pages a better record. The old year, with its errors, may be gone, but the purposes of the new year are not. We are in the new year. It is well to make resolutions for the new year.