

Friday, Jan. 1, 1886. 1 o'clock A. M.

Have just returned from watch meeting! It was a glorious feast of spiritual blessing. The sight of familiar faces, the absence of others gave me a solemn feeling that I could not get rid of. I felt somewhat alienated until everybody began to speak and I felt lifted up and I thank God I opened my mouth and told of His wonderful mercies to me and my heart overflowed with thankfulness. I prayed and asked their prayers that the last trace of bitterness be removed from my heart against any one, and I believe the Lord answered my prayer, and to-night I came away - after greeting them all and finding their hearts warm and inclined to me - with a lighter and more peaceful heart than I have known for many a day. My soul is at peace and forgiveness with all mankind and I thank God for it.

The old year has gone! the New Year has taken its place; the book of the sins, follies, good deeds has been closed and sealed away forever; and a clean page, a new book is before me in this New Year; only God knows what is to be recorded here. Oh! may the record be to Thy Glory and honor! I go forth on the pilgrimage of this New Year with renewed hope, vigor, a remembrance of the glorious beginnings and humbly pray for wisdom, humility success in my undertakings if it be My Father's good pleasure, and a stronger Christianity that will make itself felt

By Ida B. Wells