

SUNDAY SCHOOL BANNER

for
TEACHERS
AND
YOUNG PEOPLE.

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"A Happy New Year."

We send to you a greeting,
Dear, unknown friends, to-day,
Wherever you may journey
God speed you on your way!
God's smile be on you, every one,
The distant and the near,
And make this time that comes to us
A happy, happy year!

May winter days grow cheery
With love for warmth and light;
May summer's joy last all the year
To make your spirits bright;
May labour have its guerdon
Of good reward and rest,
And with the holiest benison
May each of you be blest!

May this new year be better
Than any gone before,
Filled with devoted service,
And crowned with plenty's store.
God cheer it with His presence,
And, if it be the last,
Grant an eternity of bliss
When the fleeting years are past.

FROM generation to generation the spiritual Church is rising upwards toward its perfection; and though, one after another, the workmen pass away, the fabric remains, and the great Master-builder carries on the undertaking. Be it ours to build in our portion in a strong and substantial manner, so that they who come after us may be at once thankful for our thoroughness and inspired by our example.

Capernaum.

A FEW weeks ago our lesson discussed the solemn threatenings of our Lord against the city of Capernaum in which He could not do many mighty works because of the unbelief of its people. It seems a very striking comment on those threatenings that the very site of the city is questioned. The weight of evidence seems to point to Tel Hum, the place shown in our cut. The ruins, which lie close upon the shore, cover a space of half a mile long and a quarter of a mile broad. Dr. Robinson first drew attention to the ruins of a large building called the "White Synagogue," 74 ft. 9 in. long and 56 ft. 9 in. broad. That it was a synagogue, and built for no other purpose, is proved by Captain Wilson's own researches into the peculiarities of synagogue building. If the town be Capernaum, here we have, without doubt, the site of the identical synagogue built by the Roman centurion (Luke vii. 4, 5), where our Lord pronounced the discourse of John vi. These very stones before our eyes have echoed to His words. We can trace the outlines of the building in which He stood. Surely, if there be any sacred place upon the earth, it is this!

MRS. TUCKER (A. L. O. E.), the well-known authoress and missionary, writes from Batala in Bengal, of the limited district immediately about her: "Crowds of men gather around us, but the women must also be reached. The 84,656 Mohammedan women of this subdivision have no one whatever to care for their souls. Christian sisters, think of it! 84,000 of your sisters dying utterly uncared for; dying for want of the Bread of Life in this one subdivision alone."