

THE NEW BOOKS.

BY EMMA A. LENTE.

"I have blotted my book," the scholar said,  
 "O Teacher, see, and see!  
 There is scarcely a leaf but is soiled and torn—  
 I am sorry as I can be!"  
 "I see, my child. I will take the book,  
 With its pages so much amiss,  
 And give thee another whole and fair—  
 Now, do thy best with this!"  
 "I have blotted my book," I said with grief,  
 "O Master, see, and see!  
 Its leaves are crumpled and sadly worn—  
 I am sorry as I can be!"  
 "I know, my child. But I give thee now  
 Another all fair instead,  
 Its leaves are white as the drifted snow;  
 Now, write thy best!" he said.  
 Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

SIX MONTHS WITH THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS.

LESSON II.—JANUARY 10.

THE PREACHING OF JOHN THE BAPTIST.

Matt. 3. 1-12. Memorize verses 4-6.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Repeat ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.—Matt. 3. 2.

THE LESSON STORY.

When Jesus was a little boy he had a boy cousin living among the hills of Hebron whose name was John. He was six months older than Jesus, and was born to Elisabeth and Zachariah in their old age. He was called to be a prophet to go before Jesus and call the people to repent and get ready to enter the kingdom of heaven. He did not live among people as he grew up, but went away into a lonely wilderness to be taught of God. When the right time came he came to the edge of the wilderness, near the river Jordan and began to lift up his voice like a prophet, saying, "Repent ye for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." He told the people that he was the "voice crying in the wilderness" of which Isaiah the prophet spoke, and that he had come to tell the people to "make ready the way of the Lord and make his paths straight."

How the people of Judea then came crowding down to the Jordan to see the new prophet? He was a strange-looking man, with a rough garment of camel's-hair cloth, bound by a leather belt around his waist. It is said that his food was

locusts and wild honey. He preached so wonderfully that many confessed their sins and were baptized by John, and he was called the "Baptist." He preached to all, plainly telling them of their sins. He called the Pharisees and Sadducees the "offspring of vipers" because they did not truly repent. "He that cometh after me," he said, "is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear; he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." He too will separate the good from the bad people, taking the good to himself into heaven.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Had Jesus a boy cousin. Yes.  
 What was his name? John.  
 Where did he live? In Hebron.  
 Where did he go when he grew up? Into a wilderness.  
 Why? To learn to be God's prophet.  
 What was he to do? To tell them that Jesus was coming.  
 What did he urge them to do? To repent of their sins.  
 What did he wear? A garment of camel's-hair cloth and a leather belt.  
 What was his food? Locusts and wild honey.  
 What did he do for the people? He baptized them.  
 What was he called? The Baptist.  
 Whom did he call mightier than he? Jesus.

LESSON III.—JANUARY 17.

THE BAPTISM AND TEMPTATION OF JESUS.

Matt. 3. 13 to 4. 11. Memorize verses 3, 4 of chapter 4.

GOLDEN TEXT.

And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.—Matt. 3. 17.

THE LESSON STORY.

While John was baptizing the people, who came to him by the waters of Jordan, he must have wished sometimes to see the One whom he preached about, but he just did what the Lord had told him to do, and waited. One day a young man came to him to be baptized, and John knew that it was Jesus. He did not want to baptize him, but said, "I have need to be baptized of thee." Jesus wanted to do all that he would have us do, and when John understood this he baptized him. As Jesus went away from the water John saw the Spirit of God come upon him, like a dove out of the blue sky, and he heard a voice in the heavens saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

After this Jesus was led by the Spirit into a lonely desert place, to pass through a time of temptation. This also was for our sake, that he might conquer evil for

us in his own human nature. We do not know all he thought or felt, but after fasting forty days and forty nights he grew faint with hunger. Then the tempter came to him, and asked him to turn the stones into bread if he was the Son of God. But Jesus answered him with Scripture, and he was silent. Then he took Jesus to the temple, and from a high place upon it he asked Jesus to cast himself down, as the Scripture had said that angels should bear him up and save him, but Jesus told him again from the Word that he must not tempt God. Then from a high mountain Satan showed Jesus the glory of the world, and said he would give it all to him if he would fall down and worship him. But Jesus again quoted the Word, and said, "Get thee hence, Satan." Then angels came and ministered to Jesus.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Where did John come to preach? To the river Jordan.  
 What else did he do? He baptized the people.  
 Who came to him one day? Jesus.  
 Did John want to baptize Jesus? No.  
 What did he think? That Jesus should baptize him.  
 Why did he finally do it? To "fulfil all righteousness."  
 What came upon Jesus? The Holy Spirit, like a dove.  
 What was then heard? A voice from heaven.  
 Where did Jesus go after this? Into the wilderness.  
 How long did he fast? Forty days and forty nights.  
 Who then tempted him? Satan.  
 How did Jesus answer him? From the Word of God.

NEW YEAR'S CALL.

"What wilt thou give to me, dear child?"  
 The Saviour asks in accents mild;  
 "Close by thy side I stand, so near  
 The faintest whisper I can hear.  
 "I gave my life, dear child, for thee,  
 I shed my blood on Calvary;  
 A gift unspeakable is mine,  
 Come now, and tell me what is thine."  
 "Dear Jesus, take my young, warm heart,  
 My feet that shall from sin depart,  
 My will to serve thee and obey,  
 My hands to work for thee alway.  
 "Earth's paths are dark, my need is great,  
 I come before it is too late;  
 Gladly I give myself away  
 And take thy gift this New Year's Day."