

Our vows, our prayers, we now present  
Before thy throne of grace;  
God of our fathers! be the God  
Of their succeeding race!"

**NATURE WORK.** What wonderful created things do we see and enjoy at this season? The outdoor sports and life of children may be talked about. After the ice and snow come the animals living in cold countries are cared for by our Father, who remembers all creatures he has made, and the creatures of the frozen North countries are cared for by his love and wisdom.

**ART WORK.** Have an interior home scene to talk over, and, if possible, have a fire before you, and talk of the necessities of the people in cold countries being provided for by love.

**HAND WORK.** Continue the suggestions of last week, and this in the Transition Class, also.

**SCIENCE AT HOME WITH THE MOTHER.** Talk of home life here and in heaven. A pretty poem in some readers is that by Mrs. Hemans, "The Better Land." One exception to its teaching may be made where she speaks of heaven as far away, for "Heaven is nearer than mortals think," and Paul, as well as fathers, and mothers, and little children who go from our earthly homes and hurry away from us sometimes, when our hearts would urge them to stay, find that better country which the letter to the Hebrews speaks about. Perhaps they find that it is not far from us, and that sometimes it seems very near.

For all the saints, who from their labors rest,  
Who thee by faith before the world confessed,  
Thy name, O Jesus, to be forever blest,  
Alleluia!

Thou wast their Rock, their fortress, and their  
might,

Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight,  
Thou in the darkness drear their one tried light,  
Alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine,  
We feebly struggle; they in glory shine,  
Yet all are one in thee, for all are thine,  
Alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,  
Steals on the distant ear the triumph song,  
And hearts are brave again and arms are strong,  
Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest  
coast,  
Through gates of pearl stream in the countless  
host,  
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
Alleluia!

## LESSON XII. (December 19.)

### JOHN'S MESSAGE ABOUT SIN AND SALVATION. 1 John 1. 5 to 2. 6.

**GOLDEN TEXT.** "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins." 1 John 1. 9.

#### Primary Notes.



Arthur shouted with delight. The postman had brought him a letter! "It's from grandpa, I know," he said, and he could scarcely wait for mamma to open it to know what his dear grandpa had to say to him.

We have a letter to-day from our dear heavenly Father. Are we in a hurry to hear what he has to tell us? It is sure to be something good—something which we need to know to make us happier and better.

*The Message.* Do you know what a message is? It is a word which some one sends to another. When your mamma was away from home and wished to tell you something which she wanted you to remember, she sent you a message. Perhaps she sent it in a letter. Perhaps she sent word by some one who expected to see you soon. In whatever way the word reached you it was your mamma's message to you. What is the title of this lesson? You see it is not what John thought and said about sin and salvation. He says it is what he heard from Jesus! So it is the message of Jesus to us, brought to us by the beloved disciple John. What is it about? Yes, sin and salvation. We will print these two words on the board. Which do you think is the better word?

*Light and Darkness.* What are the two words on the board? We will print two more—"Light" and "Darkness." One of these words means the same thing as sin, and the other about the same as salvation. You may look at them and think which is the sin word and which the salvation word.

Do you like the light better than the dark? If we did not have the light in the world of nature, we should have no flowers, no bird songs, no green leaves and grass, and no delicious fruits. The light of the sun in the sky makes our great world healthy, and happy, and beautiful. But the world of nature is not the only world we live in. There is a world of mind and spirit just as real as the nature-world! When we shut the eyes of the body, and look with the eyes of the soul, we can see some of the things of this inside world. They are not all beautiful, any more than all the things of the outside world are beau-