

seventh day the white layer will be about three times as thick as the others. But if they work on the Sabbath they see it marked against them in the stone. Hence the miners call it "the Sunday stone." Perhaps many who break the Sabbath would try to spend it better if there were a "Sunday stone," where they could see their unkept Sabbaths with their black marks. But God needs no such record on earth to know how all our Sabbaths are kept. His record is kept above. All our Sabbath deeds are written there, and we shall see them at the last. Be very careful to keep your Sabbaths pure and white.

MERRY CHRISTMAS.

BY LOUISA M. ALCOTT.

IN the rush of early morning
When the red burns through the
grey,

And the wintry world lies waiting

For the glory of the day,

Then we hear a fitful rustling

Just without upon the stair,

See two small white phantoms coming,

Catch the gleam of sunny hair.

Are they Christmas fairies stealing

Rows of little socks to fill?

Are they angels floating hither

With their message of good-will?

What sweet spell are these elves weaving,

As like larks they chirp and sing?

Are these palms of peace from heaven,

That these lovely spirits bring?

Rosy feet upon the threshold,

Eager faces peeping through,

With the first red ray of sunshine,

Chanting cherubs come in view.

Mistletoe and gleaming holly,

Symbols of a blessed day,

In their chubby hands they carry,

Streaming all along the way.

Well we know them, never weary
Of this innocent surprise;
Waiting, watching, listening always,
With full heart and tender eyes,
While our little household angels,
White and golden in the sun,
Greet us with the sweet old welcome,
"Merry Christmas, every one!"

A NEW YEAR'S MOTTO.

BE more cheerful; do not worry;

There is time enough to do

Every day the daily duties

That your Father sendeth you,

And to find some little moments

For heart music fresh and new.

WE can lie without saying a word. If a man sells me a basket of apples that has the good ones all on top, and the bad ones underneath, he lies to me. He says by his acts that all the apples are as good as those I can see. I do not know that the man lies, until I empty the basket, but God knows it all the time. A boy lies if he makes believe he has learned his lesson when he has not learned it.

A LITTLE boy had two cents given him by a friend, one for his missionary box and one for himself. He lost one of them, and concluded it was the missionary cent that was lost. There are a great many children of larger growth who, if they lose some part of their income, also conclude that it is the money which was to be devoted to religion or charity that has been lost.—*Exchange.*

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