

## CHRISTIAN HOLIDAYS.



GREAT many years ago, a Child was born at Bethlehem, for a light of the world, to save poor sinners—Jesus Christ. The sun seemed to rise upon the eastern world as soon as Christ was preached, and like the sunlight the Gospel has penetrated to the west. We rejoice in its light.

And at the season of Christmas and New Year, we remember our friends and remember the poor; and draw closer together in the bonds of Christian love. Friend greets friend, and the poor are tenderly remembered with gifts and keepsakes.

[An interruption: A neighbor comes in to ask a list of the very poor in "this end of the town," for the use of the county "Member" in his Christmas donations. We give him a list of five families; some of whom have already had baskets from the editorial cottage.]

The children all delight to see the Christmas holidays come round. Plans are laid—not for "enjoyment" only—but for that best sort of enjoyment that comes from making others happy. Parents and friends—sometimes under the guise of some mythical "Santa Claus," and oftener without disguise—distribute their holiday gifts; "Bands of Hope" visit poor houses and "homes" for orphans, with their songs and flowers; the Sunday schools have "Christmas trees" and pleasant reunions; and those who love Christ try to make all others happy.

And at the winter holidays it is a good time to think, "Wherein have I failed last year? What improvement on my life and conduct can I make next year? And am I nearer heaven than I was?"

## AN EDITORIAL REVIEW.

During the year just closed, we have had some editorial chats with our readers. Groaned inward-

ly at times, that we had not more space at command, to talk more copiously. Yet with editors, as with preachers, it is a good thing to have always power in reserve.

We have received many words of general commendation; especially among those whose articles and items have appeared in our pages—for we never *help* anything without also thinking better of it. But we are not sure all our good advice has been followed—or even seriously taken to heart. We appealed to Christian women who read our pages to set the example of emancipating themselves and their sisters from the tyranny of compression of the waist: but a silence as of the grave has prevailed on the subject. We commend this subject to "The Department of Hygiene and Heredity," in the W. C. T. U. We want to save our boys from the destructive bodily evils of liquor and tobacco; and we want to save our girls from the equally destructive bodily evils of the "tight waist."

We have several times pleaded for more work among the members; more "outside stations" being taken up and maintained; more lay preaching encouraged by the ministers, and enjoined by the churches. We are hopeful; still if there had been a general waking-up among the churches in this direction, we should have heard of it. Dear reader, how is it with *YOUR* church? And are you ready to go out, if the church should send *you*?

We have advocated systematic "giving," pointed out again and again, that periodical contributions can never be got in, unless *collectors* are appointed to call for them at the houses of the donors at stated periods. Study again our article in February on that point. And here, too, a deathly silence has fallen. Is there not *one* go-ahead member in each church, who will take our February number in his hand, and show it to his deacons, and ask them if they are going to do anything about it? And if so, what? And if not, *why not*?

And we have advised "throwing the net" more. An "after-meeting" every Sabbath night. Ask everybody to stay for just twenty minutes, for conversation and prayer. If anybody prays more than three minutes strike in with a verse of a gospel hymn. The members will soon get into the way of speaking to the unconverted in the pews. *Begin at the door!* We should be glad to hear that the good advice we have given on this point