

CHRISTMAS EVE.

BY JULIA M'NAIR WRIGHT.

He'll be coming down the chimney,
Our Christmas gifts to bring,
And we'll all sit up and watch him
And catch the Christmas king!

Will he be big and bearded,
Or shy and sweet and mild?
Is he really old St. Nicholas,
Or Mary's little child?

We'll know when we have seen him,
For we'll never fall asleep;
But sitting round the hearthstone,
Our bivouac we'll keep.

See the long and funny shadows
Of the stockings on the wall!
I didn't know that andirons
Could ever grow so tall!

So Nellie leaned on Bobby,
And Tot bent all in a heap,
And Tom was lying on the floor,
And they all were—sound asleep.

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT FROM
ISAIAH TO MALACHI.

LESSON XIV.—December 31.

REVIEW.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Thou crownest the year with thy goodness.—Psa. 35. 11.

Titles and Golden Texts should be thoroughly studied.

TITLES.

GOLDEN TEXTS.

- D. and B. The face of—
- D. in the L.'s D.. The angel of—
- R. from C. The Lord hath done—
- R. the T. The temple of—
- P. through G.'s S. Not by might—
- E. P. for Her P. . . . The Lord preserveth—
- E.'s J. to J. The hand of our—
- N.'s P. The effectual—
- W.'s T. S. Let him that—
- N. R. and W. of J. Watch—
- R. and O. the L. . . . Blessed are they—
- P. for the M. I will send my—
- The C. of the M. . . . Thou shalt call—

FIRST QUARTER.

WORDS AND WORKS OF JESUS AS RECORDED IN THE GOSPELS.

LESSON I.—JANUARY 7.

THE SHEPHERDS FIND JESUS.

Luke 2. 1-20. Memorize verses 13. 14.

GOLDEN TEXT.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.—Luke 2. 11.

THE LESSON STORY.

We all know the sweet story of the coming of the Saviour of the world as a little babe to Bethlehem. How he was born in a manger in the stable of an inn, and how the shepherds and the wise men came and worshipped him. What a wonderful night for those shepherds, when as they were abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks, lo! an angel appeared and told them the good tidings of great joy, of a Saviour having come. There presently with the angel appeared a heavenly host, and what a glorious message they did bring of peace on earth, good-will toward men! That angels' song has come down to us through the ages, keeping us ever mindful that it was the coming of a world's Saviour brought the offer of peace to mankind and put in people's hearts love and good will toward their neighbors.

How glad were the shepherds when they heard this blessed news and with what joy did they tell it to others! Let us glorify and praise God throughout his glad New Year as did the shepherds of old.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

1. Where was Jesus born? In a manger in Bethlehem.
2. What had he come to be? The Saviour of the world.
3. What were the shepherds doing? Watching their flocks by night.
4. Who appeared to them? An angel surrounded by a bright light.
5. What did the angel say? Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy.
6. What appeared with the angel? An heavenly host.
7. What was their message? Peace on earth, good will to men.
8. What did the shepherds do? They worshipped Jesus and told their neighbors of them.

A KINDLY TALK WITH TOM.

You want to know, Tom, what is the first quality of manhood? Well, listen. I am going to tell you in one little word of five letters, and will write it, as though you were deaf, so that you may never forget it. That word is "truth." Now then, remember, truth is the only foundation on which can be erected a manhood that is worthy of being so called. Mark what I say: truth must be the foundation on which the whole character is to be erected; for otherwise, no matter how beautiful the upper stories may be, and no matter of how good material they may be built, the edifice, the character, the manhood will be but a sham which offers no sure refuge and protection to those who seek it, for it will tumble down when trial comes.

Alas, my boy! the world is very full of such shams of manhood, in every profession and occupation. There are lawyers in this town who know that they have never

had any training to fit them for their work, who yet impose upon the people and take their money for giving them advice which they know they are unfitted to give. I heard of one lately who advised his partner "never to have anything to do with law books, for they would confuse his mind."

There are ignorant physicians who know that they are ignorant, and who can and do impose on a people more ignorant than themselves. There are preachers without number pretending to know what they have never learned. Don't you see that their manhood is at best but a beautiful deceit?

Now, I want you to be a man; and, that you may be that, I want you first and foremost to be true—thoroughly true. I hope you would scorn to tell a lie, but that is only the beginning of truthfulness. I want you to despise all sham, all pretence, all effort to seem to be otherwise than you are. When we have laid that foundation, then we can go on to build up a manhood, glorious and Godlike, after the perfect image of Him, the Perfect Man, who said that he was born that he might bear witness to the truth.

"YOU CAN'T CHEAT GOD."

Ned took his cousin, Grace, along to keep him company while he worked at a job he had to perform.

"I don't think you're doing your work very well," she said. "It looks to me as if you were slighting it."

"That's all right," laughed Ned. "What I'm doing now will be covered up, you know."

"But isn't that cheating?"

"Maybe 'tis, after a fashion," answered Ned; "but it isn't like most cheating, you know."

"That's not the way to look at it," said Grace. "If it's cheating, it's cheating. You know that. You can't excuse it because it isn't the worst kind of cheating."

"But the man won't know about it," said Ned.

"He may not," said Grace, soberly, "but God will. You can't cheat God."

Ned stopped work and went to thinking. Presently he said: "You're right; I'm glad you said that, Grace. I'm going to begin over. There shan't be any cheating this time."

Ned undid what he had done, and began again, began right; and I know he felt better for it. I hope he will always remember that no one can cheat God.

The tact and ingenuity of children is often seen displayed in what, to them at least, amount to real crises in life. The following illustrates our point:

"No, Willie, dear," said mamma; "no more cakes to-night. Don't you know you cannot sleep on a full stomach?"

"Well," replied Willie, "I can sleep on my back."