

AFTER CHRISTMAS.

'Twas a week after Christmas, and Santa Claus said:  
To-night, when the children are safely in bed,  
I'll harness my reindeer, and slyly steal out  
To take one more look at the gifts strewn about;  
The presents I carried this year were the best,  
And Christmas trees never were more gaily dressed.

'I'll go to the Browns', where there's six little boys;  
I'm fond of those youngsters, and gave lots of toys;  
Those drums that I left there were handsome and strong;  
Much pleasure they'll furnish through all the year long.  
The boys, when they wrote, asked for things that made noise;  
Their parents don't like it—but boys will be boys."

Before I can tell it, for deer can run fast,  
Good Santa stood in the Browns' nursery at last;  
It makes one feel sorry to say what a sight  
His old eyes beheld as he gazed there that night;  
The playthings were there that belonged to the tribe.  
But as for condition, whose pen can describe!

A horse with its tail off—a dog without head—  
A waggon-wheel tied to the waggon with thread;  
A trumpet of tin that would never more shout;  
A beautiful spinning-top—with the peg out;  
The drums—it was awful! each one of the six  
Was riddled in holes by a dozen drumsticks.

There's no use denying that Santa felt bad;  
He stood there, and looked disappointed and sad.

"These children are naughty and careless," he said;  
"Next year I shall not"—here he nodded his head;  
'Twas plain that some punishment great was in store—  
Could Santa Claus mean he would go there no more?

Next door Santa went, where lived three tiny girls,  
All sweet little maidens with soft golden curls.

He said: "They're not boys, with such rough, careless ways,  
For girls can be happy in quieter plays;  
Their tea-sets and dolls won't be scattered all round,  
They've taken good care of them, that I'll be bound."

The shock he received was more cruel, for there  
A doll with both arms out lay under a chair;  
Another one, eyeless, and hair all pulled out,  
Reposed in a bed with a sheet tucked about;  
The tea-sets—at sight of them Santa Claus said:  
"I feel very sick—I'll go home and to bed."

It makes one feel anxious to think of next year,  
There are some more cases just like these, I fear;  
A note might be sent to explain children's plays—  
Most likely old Santa forgets childish days—  
And tell him that toys wrecked and broken but rise  
To take on new value in little folk's eyes.

The doll without eyes was a hospital case,  
'Twas such fun to doctor and bind up its face;  
The one without arms was from Barnum's great show,  
Two pins let you see it—'twas born so, you know;  
The tea-set was ruined—that thing I'll admit,  
But dolls do not mind broken dishes one bit.

Those drums—'twas a pity, it can't be denied—  
The boys longed to see all the noises inside;  
They suffered to find they were hollow, no doubt,  
We all pay big prices that thing to find out;  
So Santa, don't plan any vengeance next year,  
For toys worn and broken are none the less dear.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF JESUS.

LESSON III. [Jan. 20.]

GREEKS SEEKING JESUS.

John 12. 20-33. Memory verses, 32-33.

GOLDEN TEXT.

We would see Jesus—John 12. 21.

QUESTIONS FOR YOU.

Who wanted to see and hear Jesus? Some Greeks. What were these Greeks? Gentiles. Why could they not go where Jesus was? Because Gentiles could enter only one court of the temple. What did Jesus say of himself? That he should

soon be glorified. What did he mean by this? Honoured, exalted. Did he mean earthly honour? No, he meant honour from God. What did Jesus want to teach the disciples and us? That he must suffer and die before he could be glorified. What does the corn of wheat teach about loving self best? Did Jesus ask his Father to save him from suffering and death? No, he trusted his Father's love. Who spoke to him from heaven? What must we do to seek Jesus? Love him, serve him, and walk in his light.

DAILY STEPS.

- Mon. Read the lesson verses very carefully. John 12. 20-33.
- Tues. Learn why Jesus had to die. John 12. 32.
- Wed. Learn a good thing for us to say. Golden Text.
- Thur. Read about the serpent in the wilderness. Num. 21. 8, 9.
- Fri. Find why all do not come to Jesus. John 5. 40.
- Sat. Read about light. John 1. 4-9.
- Sun. Find a beautiful name for God. James 1. 17.

LESSON IV. [Jan. 27.]

CHRIST SILENCES THE PHARISEES.

Matt. 22. 34-46. Memory verses, 37-40.

GOLDEN TEXT.

What think ye of Christ?—Matt. 22-42.

QUESTIONS FOR YOU.

What did a Jewish lawyer study? The law of God. What did a certain lawyer ask Jesus one day? Which was the greatest commandment. What did he hope to do? To puzzle Jesus. What did Jesus answer? Verse 37. What did he say about this first commandment? That it was the first and greatest of all. What did he say was next it? Verse 39. Who is our neighbour? [Steps for Friday] Who gave the ten commandments? God. To whom were they first spoken? To Moses. How can we keep them all? By getting love in our hearts. Who has plenty of love to give us? What great question did Jesus ask the Pharisees? "What think ye of Christ?" Why could they not answer him rightly? Because they did not have love in their hearts. What do we need more than all other things? Love.

DAILY STEPS.

- Mon. Learn a great question. Golden Text.
- Tues. Read the lesson verses. Matt. 22. 34-46.
- Wed. Ask some one to read to you Deut. 10. 1-5, 11, 12.
- Thur. Learn a memory text. John 14. 15.
- Fri. Find who is our neighbour. Luke 11. 30-37.
- Sat. Learn why Jesus can answer all questions. John 1. 1-3.
- Sun. Read what God says about love. 1 Cor. 13.