

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS.

There were three little folks, long ago,
Who solemnly sat in a row

On a December night,
And attempted to write
For the new year a good resolution.

"I will try not to make so much noise,
And be one of the quietest boys,"

Wrote one of the three,
Whose uproarious glee
Was the cause of no end of confusion.

"I resolve that I never will take
More than two or three pieces of cake,"

Wrote plump little Pete,
Whose taste for the sweet
Was a problem of puzzling solution.

The other, her paper to fill,
Began with, "Resolved that I will"—

But right there she stopped,
And fast asleep dropped
Ere she came to a single conclusion.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE WRITINGS OF JOHN.

LESSON II.—JANUARY 8.

THE WITNESS OF JOHN THE BAPTIST TO JESUS.

John 1. 19-34. Memorize verses 26, 27.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world.—John 1. 29.

THE LESSON STORY.

Four hundred years is a long time, and that time had passed since a prophet had been sent to Israel. Then John, called the Baptist, came to make the way plain for not allowed to visit the Saviour of the world. His mother was Mary, the mother of Jesus, and between them. The feast his father and mother knew that he was to be a prophet of the Lord. He had to make a journey away into the wilderness to live, so that the great silent places of nature might come and the short hours his schoolroom while the Lord taught him to seven, auntie said. Then he came to the fords of Jordan, and I had begun preaching to the people who had passed, and soon crowds from Jerusalem and all the country round were coming to hear the words of the new prophet. Many began until after he would be the great Prophet, the little prayer Messiah, that was promised in the Scriptures tucked in bed, sure, but he said, "I am not the Christ."

And when they said, "Who art thou?" he said, "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord.'"

The people wondered why he was on the seashore, or in an open place, but he said, "I am not the Christ, but he who baptizes with water; in the midst of you standeth One whom ye know not, even he that cometh after me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose."

John did not know Jesus as we know him, but he knew him by the know-

ledge of the Spirit of God, and the next day, when Jesus stood among the crowds on the banks of Jordan (for Jesus came to John for baptism as others did), John cried, "Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world!" Then he told them plainly that he was only one preparing the way for the Redeemer of the world. He said, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him." This he saw when Jesus was baptized, but perhaps the people could not see heavenly things so well. It was in this way that John witnessed for Jesus.

WHO CAN TELL?

How long had Israel been without a prophet? Who was called then? What did he come to do? How was he related to the mother of Jesus? Where had he learned to be a prophet? Who was his Teacher? Where did he begin to preach? Had he many hearers? How was he clothed? In a coarse camel's hair garment and a belt of leather. What did the people hope? What did John say in reply to their question? What did he say that he was? How did he witness for Jesus? What had he seen?

LESSON III.—JANUARY 15.

JESUS WINS HIS FIRST DISCIPLES.

John 1. 35-51. Memorize verses 40, 41.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.—John 1. 49.

THE LESSON STORY.

This is the way Jesus began to build his Church upon earth. When John the Baptist again (the next day) pointed to Jesus, saying, "Behold the Lamb of God," two young men turned and followed him. They had been disciples of John. One was, no doubt, John, who writes the story of it, and the other was Simon Peter's brother, Andrew. Jesus also turned to them and said, not "Whom seek ye?" but "What seek ye?" He wanted to have them know that it was the kingdom of heaven that we must seek. They said, "Master, where dwellest thou?" Jesus said, "Come and see," and so they went with him to the booth, or tent, where he was staying and were with him all the rest of the day. There they first heard the new doctrine that we call the Gospel of Jesus Christ." Andrew thought of his brother Simon, and went to bring him to Jesus also, and Jesus, seeing that he had a faithful heart, gave him the new name of Peter, which means a stone, or a rock to build on.

The next day Jesus found another young man named Philip, who came from the town of Andrew and Peter—Bethsaida (Fishtown). Jesus said to him, "Follow me," and after Philip's obedience to that word, he went for his friend Nathanael, a good man, telling him that they had found the Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth. Nathanael could not believe that any good thing

could come out of Nazareth, but he went, and Jesus, when he saw him coming, said, "Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile." This surprised Nathanael, but when Jesus told him that he saw him under the fig tree before Philip called him, he said, "Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel."

WHO CAN TELL?

Where was the scene of our lesson? At the fords of the Jordan. Who followed Jesus? What did Jesus say to them? What question did they ask him? How did Jesus answer? What did they do? Whom did Andrew then think about? What did Jesus give to Simon? Whom did Jesus meet the next day? What did he say to Philip? Where did these young men live? What is the meaning of Bethsaida? Had Philip a friend? What was his name? What did Jesus say to Nathanael? How did he show that he could read Nathanael's heart? Did Nathanael believe in him?

AT THE DOOR.

"We will watch the old year out to-night,
And the new year in!" Ned cried;
Then three-year old Baby Winnie
Crept up to her mother's side,
And out from under her curly pate,
Where queer little questions grow,
Came, "Mamma, how do ye new years
come?
And where do ye old ones go?"

And mamma, with a bright smile, told her:
"My dear little Winnie-wee,
That is very hard to answer;
You shall watch with us and see!"
And so when night drew the curtains dark
And snug upon every side,
Little Winnie climbed into her high chair,
Her blue eyes bright and wide.

But the minutes passed so slowly,
With so many in an hour,
That long before it was over
She felt the Sandman's power;
And two little fringed, white curtains,
Were dropping low and lower,
When there came a timid summons
Against the outer door.

She was wide awake that instant,
And gazing all around,
When once again she heard it,
That gentle, asking sound.
Mamma knew 'twas Deeg Rolfe,
Not so did Baby Winnie,
"O, mamma, hear ye New Year,
A-strachin' to get in!"

Once, when there was a very great sickness among the people of Bristol, no one dared to go into the town for fear of catching this plague. So farmers brought corn and vegetables to a big stone, and money was pitched over to pay for it. The stone is still called "Pitch and Pay."

" said Ted. "Susie
own on the buttons
Harry's mittens into
d a pretty little bash
sky's hand, which Elsie
elp to give a New Year
anner, even though Susie
me.
said Elsie, looking aft
rotted away, "how gl
helped to make a Happ
m."
am," said Harry, goin
to put his arms arou
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re at home. I don't mi
ut."
said Elsie, "when v
thankful because of
I can't help thinkin
Ted. Why don't G
happy, too, instea
dear mamma?"
ng," said mamma, dr
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Lord's way with his ch
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D LITTLE LUCY.

AMSDEN BARR.
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next yard to her
not allowed to visit
ay goes on just the
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hat the great silen
comes and the shor
ts to seven, auntie
bedtime, and I hav
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omb, the little prae
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ure, but he said, "I
And when they said,
only a make-believe
anywhere or doing
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g a party with her
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on haven't finished
tie replies, "That's
about little Luey."