

THE NEW YEAR BOOK.

Now is the time to be glad and bright,
And kind as we can from morn till night;
Be quick to smile and to frown be slow,
And try to learn what is good to know;
For, O, let us think how the days will look
While we write them down in our New
Year Book.

If all would be good and kind and true,
And do the work that is theirs to do;
If from hate and pride our hearts were free
What a glad New Year the world would
see!

And then I know we should love to look
On each bright page of the New Year
Book.

—Eudora S. Bumstead.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF ACTS.

LESSON II. [Jan. 11.]

CHRISTIAN LIVING.

Phil. 4. 1-13. Memorize verses 6-8.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Rejoice in the Lord alway.—Phil. 4. 4.

THE LESSON STORY.

More than ten years after Paul and Silas were in a prison in Philippi, Paul wrote a letter to his Philippian friends, who were gathered together as a church. He wrote it from Rome, where he was a prisoner. He was not kept in a cell, but chained to a soldier. He was allowed to go about and to talk with all whom he met of the Gospel he was sent to preach. In this way a church was gathered together in Rome, and some of its members were from the household of the emperor. In two or three years he was put to death at Rome, but he left a church there that afterward took in all Rome and spread through the world. He had a Philippian friend with him, whom he sent home with the letter. He calls the Philippian church his "dearly beloved and longed for," his "joy and crown," and bids them "stand fast in the Lord." He tells them to "rejoice in the Lord alway;" to have no anxious care; to look to God for all things, and they should know the peace of God. He also told them to think of all things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and of good report. He said that he had learned to be content in any state, and could do all things through Christ, who strengthened him.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST

Who made Paul a prisoner? The emperor Nero.

Where? At Rome.

What did he do there? Preached the Gospel.

To whom did he write letters? To the churches.

To whom is he here writing? To the church at Philippi.

How does he write to them? With great love.

What does he call them? His "joy and crown."

What does he bid them do? "Stand fast in the Lord."

What does he tell them three times? To "rejoice."

To whom does he bid them look? To God.

What are the six good things to think about? (Verse 8.)

Who was Paul's strength? Christ.

LESSON III. [Jan. 18.]

PAUL AT THESSALONICA AND BERECA.

Acts 17. 1-12. Memorize verses 2-4.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet.—Psa. 119. 105.

THE LESSON STORY.

After Paul and Silas had been set free by the Philippians they went away, for the rulers of Philippi begged them to go. The earthquake made them afraid of men whose God would shake the prisons open to free his children. They went to Thessalonica. Paul's custom was to find the Jewish synagogue, that might be found in many of the cities of Asia Minor, and there preach the news and glad tidings of a Saviour who had come first to the Jews, but was the Saviour of the world. He preached for three Sabbaths to the Thessalonian Jews, proving to them from their own Scriptures that "Christ must needs have suffered and risen from the dead." Some believed, and some did not. Among the believers were many Greeks and some of the noble women of the city. It was the Jews who, if they did not believe in Jesus, were always his greatest enemies, and these stirred up the lower classes to attack the house of Jason, where Paul and Silas stayed, and the rulers were very much troubled. Paul and Silas went away by night to Berea. Here they found nobler men and women than at Thessalonica, and together they studied the word of God daily to see if the things that Paul preached were true.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Where did Paul and Silas next go? To Thessalonica.

What did they first find there? A Jewish synagogue.

What did Paul do there? He preached about Jesus.

How long? For three Sabbaths.

What book did he use? Their own Scriptures.

What is that? The Old Testament.

What did the Jews think? Some of them believed.

What did other Jews do? Stirred up the city.

Where did Paul and Silas go? To Berea.

What is said of the Bereans? They were "more noble."

What did they do? Searched the Scriptures daily.

What followed? Many believed.

AT BEDTIME JUNCTION.

"Change cars for Dreamland!"

Boy roused up a little. He moved his hand, and it touched the arm of the low rocker. He felt for his picture-book. It was gone. He thought that it had dropped on the floor. Still he did not open his eyes.

"Passengers for Dreamland change cars!"

Boy knew the voice. He wanted to answer. He tried to lift his head, but it was so heavy that he could not move it. His lips parted, and after a while he said: "What?"

"This is the place where we change cars," said the voice; "it is Bedtime Junction. We reach here at seven fifty-nine. The gentleman called Mr. Charles Albert has taken the Dreamland car. I came back after you, and we must go at once."

Boy felt himself lifted by strong arms. The next thing he knew he was laid in a soft bed, and a soft hand was drawing a white sheet over him, while a soft voice said: "This is the Dreamland car. You do not change again till morning. I will let you know. I look after all the passengers. I am the conductor."

Boy's eyes opened wide. "You're mamma!" he said.

Mamma kissed Boy's plump pink cheeks. His eyes closed again, and the Dreamland car moved on, carrying Boy, with a through ticket in his nightcap.—*Youth's Companion*.

A PUNCTUAL BIRD.

What tempts the little hummingbird that we see in our gardens to travel every spring from near the equator to as far north as the Arctic Circle, leaving behind him, as he does, for a season, many tropical delights? He is the only one of many humming-birds that pluckily leaves the land of gaily coloured birds to go into voluntary exile in the north, east of the Mississippi. How it stirs the imagination to picture the solitary, tiny migrant, a mere atom of bird-life, moving above the range of human sight, through the vast dome of the sky. Borne swiftly onward by rapidly vibrating wings, he covers the thousands of miles between his winter home and his summer one by easy stages and arrives at his chosen destination, weather permitting, at approximately the same date year after year.