

than when the request was first made. Let us be willing to endeavor to have this happy state brought about by being instruments in His hands, by His divine love in our minds guiding us, (for He works by instruments), for this very desirable purpose, that we may experience in our own life-time the saying of the blessed Jesus of "The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand," and be enabled in truth to say, "Glory to God in the Highest; on Earth, peace and good-will to men."

WM. TYSON.

THE BLOSSOMS UNDER THE SNOW.

A TRUE STORY.

Tenderly inscribed to Rachel D. Mitchell and her sister Libbie.

On a busy day, as he went his way,
A farmer called at a widow's home;
'Twas the merest chance that he dined that day,
With his sister-in-law, where his steps did roam.
Yet she was pleased with this small surprise,
To hear from the sister she loved so well,
And out o'er the garden her wistful eyes
Gazed in search of a token her love to tell.

O, who but a widow would think to look
In a place like this for a souvenir?
One waste of snow was each treasured nook,
And all looked drear as the falling year.
O, who but a widow like her could know
What blossoms hide 'neath a surface sear,
What warm tints lay 'neath the cold white snow
That smother the brightness of bloom and cheer.

But forth she went on that dismal day,
To each cherished spot in her own loved bowers,
And back she came with a bright bouquet,
As fair as the fairest of summer hours.
Give these to my sister, she sweetly said,
To the one I love, though she is not here;
I gathered them all from their wintry bed,
'Neath the frosts and snows of the old, old year.

And thus it is in our lives I ween;
When the frosts of pain touch our fairest flowers,
They are blossoming still 'neath the cold white sheen
That girds flings o'er them in lonely hours.

O, blest is the heart that can always find
The flowers of love 'neath the frost and snow,
To cheer each friend it may keep in mind,
As the changing seasons come and go.

—Julia M. Dutton.

Waterloo, N. Y., Nov. 11, 1892

THE INTERNATIONAL BIBLE LESSON SYSTEM.

From the Sunday-School Times.

Assuming that religious instruction is the legitimate work of Sunday Schools, it is important to ask how this work has been done. That a great advance has been made since the days of reading the Scriptures in the classes, "verse and verse about," no one will deny. And the International lesson system has been the foremost agency in promoting this advance. For a large part of the first century of Sunday Schools, progress in methods of Bible study was very slow. For the last twenty years it has been much more rapid. Up to the time when the International system was introduced, the use of the Bible in our Sunday Schools was very unsatisfactory. That there were many teachers previous to that who did as good work as they, or others have done since, is not to be denied. With an ability for independent methods of study and teaching, they not only awakened a high degree of enthusiasm in their Bible class instruction, but they worked successfully the richest veins of Bible truth. The number of such teachers, however, was lamentably small. By far the largest part of those who attempted to teach did not know where to begin their work, nor how to carry it on. And in hundreds of our churches no Sunday School instruction was attempted.

The year 1872 marks the beginning of a new era in the Sunday School world. From that time Christian people have been drawn together in the study of Scriptures as they never were before. From that time our Sunday Schools have been Bible schools as they never were before. To encourage the weak, and enlist the sym-