

# The Methodist Magazine

FOR 1893.

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### PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

God has power over nations and events.

God's promises will all be fulfilled in due time, often in most unexpected ways.

When God's people have learned the lessons their trials are intended to teach, he will bring them again to peace and prosperity.

Those who remain at home should give freely to sustain those who go forth to preach the Gospel.

God uses the world to aid his cause and his people—wars, explorations, commerce, wealth inventions.

God wants volunteers for his work, for the work best—Volunteering is God's sieve.

### REVIEW EXERCISE.

1. When did the captivity of the Jews begin? Ans. B.C. 605, by Nebuchadnezzar. 2. Where were the captives carried? Ans. To Babylon and the East. 3. What was the cause of the exile? Ans. The sins and idolatry of the people. 4. When was the time of return? Ans. After 70 years, in B.C. 536, under Cyrus. 5. How many returned? Ans. About 50,000 people, taking with them the temple treasures. 6. How long was the journey? Ans. About four months.

### CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

What is your duty towards God? My duty towards God is to believe in him, to fear him, and to love him with all my heart, with all my mind, with all my soul, and with all my strength; to worship him, to give him thanks, to put my whole trust in him, to call upon him, to honour his holy name, his Sabbath, and his Word, and to serve him truly all the days of my life.

### A LITTLE HERO.

THE New York World says: "A pathetic comment upon the hard struggle for existence in this big city were the last words of little Jack Gorman, who died in Chambers Street Hospital as a result of having been severely mangled by a Broadway car. One arm had been amputated and he was in great suffering. Later his mother was admitted to see him. His face brightened as she approached him, and he said: "The money is in my coat pocket, mamma." Then he sank back upon his pillow and died without again speaking. Stronger than his fear of "the shadow of death" were his loving thoughts for the welfare of the dear ones he was to leave behind. Of such stuff as "little Jack" heroes are made.

## Calendars for 1893

Our Calendars for 1893 are real gems of art and beauty. Prepared by the experience of last year, when we were besieged with orders we could not fill, we have this year made extraordinary provision. A sale already of between twenty and thirty thousand of these Calendars attest their popularity. Here is our list:

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### O Little Town of Bethlehem.

BY PHILLIS BROOKS.

O LITTLE town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent hours go by,  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee to-night.

For Christ is born of Mary,  
And gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep the angels keep  
Their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars together  
Proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing to God the King,  
And peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming,  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him, still  
The dear Christ enters in.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us we pray!  
Cast out our sin and enter in;  
Be born in us to-day.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
Oh, come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel!

## LESSON NOTES.

### FIRST QUARTER.

#### LESSON I—JANUARY 1.

#### RETURNING FROM THE CAPTIVITY.

Ezra 1. 1-11.] [Memory verses, 5, 6.

#### GOLDEN TEXT.

The Lord thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee. Deut. 30. 3.

#### CENTRAL TRUTH.

God is the Redeemer of his people. They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.

TIME. The captivity began B.C. 605, and continued seventy years till 536.

PLACE.—Babylon and Jerusalem.

EZRA, THE BOOK OF. (1) It is manifestly a continuation of 2 Chronicles. The last two verses of Chronicles are the same as the first two verses of Ezra. Like these books, Ezra consists the contemporary historical journals kept from time to time, which were afterward strung together, and either abridged or added to, as the case required, by a later hand. (2) The Authors. The first section is a compilation by Ezra; the second is his original work. (3) Divisions. Between chapters 6 and 7 there is a gap of 58 years.

RULERS.—Cyrus was king of the Medo-Persian empire 558-526. He began as solo ruler of Babylon in 536. Zerubbabel, a prince of the house of David, was the Tirshatha or Pasha of the returned exiles.

THE THREE DEPORTATIONS OF EXILES. (1) In 606 or 605, when Daniel and his friends with many others were carried to Babylon. (2) In 598, when 10,000 people, including

Ezekiel and the grandfather of Mordecai, Queen Esther's cousin, and the temple treasures were carried away. (3) In 586, when Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed.

THE EXILE.—The people were treated partly as slaves, and partly as foreigners, subject to many hardships, but living in communities, and some of them gaining wealth and honour. The best of the people were among the captives. The result was (1) that they were cured of idolatry. (2) They were disciplined into better characters. (3) They were led to study the Scriptures. (4) Their views and sympathies were enlarged.

PREPARATIONS FOR RETURN.—(1) As soon as the people were sufficiently cured of their sins the time came for deliverance. (2) The promises in Isaiah and Jeremiah. (3) The example and teachings of Daniel and Ezekiel and Isaiah. (4) The prayer of Daniel (Dan. 9). (5) A change in government at this time. (6) The proclamation of Cyrus. 1. "The first year of Cyrus"—over Babylon. "The word by Jeremiah"—Jer. 25. 11, 12; 29. 10. "The Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus"—by his Holy Spirit, perhaps by showing him Isaiah's prophecies. 2. "All the kingdoms"—the Medo-Persian was a world kingdom. 3. "Who is there," etc.—only volunteers were wanted. 4. "Whosoever remaineth"—a large part of the exiles remained in Babylon. They and their heathen neighbours were to help those who went. 5. "The chief of the fathers"—they were led by Zerubbabel, a prince of Judah, and Jeshua, the high priest. "To go up"—about 50,000 went (2. 64, 65). 7. "The vessels of the house of the Lord"—these had thus, in the providence of God, been preserved by Nebuchadnezzar. 11. "Five thousand four hundred"—this must have included many smaller vessels not counted above.