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Normal Class Work.

WE hope that the Normal Class Lessons begun in this number of the BANNER will receive a great deal of attention from teachers and superintendents. We are persuaded that they will be much better equipped for their work if they will faithfully prosecute the course of study here outlined. Bro. Andrews' introductory note fully explains its general scope and purpose. Much of the success of the study depends upon the way in which it is taken up. While individual teacher's may pursue it in private, we think it will be much more successful if taken up in concert like the Sunday-school lessons. Cannot an evening a month or more be given up to this work? or, where that cannot be done, cannot some time be taken

from the teacher's meeting, which we hope is held in connection with each "live" school? Let there be but the earnest will to prosecute this course to the best advantage, and the way to do so will certainly be found.

New Year Thoughts.

On visiting the mint I was struck by the mode in which an instrument resembling a hand was filled with blank pieces of metal, conveying each of them to a dye, which stamped them as they passed in succession beneath it with a clear and beautiful impress. And so with ourselves. During the last year an invisible hand in like manner has given us our hours, and it was our duty to have impressed each ere it left us with a distinct and useful purpose. Have we done so, then, the old year asks? Whose image did each hour bear—Christ's or the world's? And what was the superscription upon it? Holiness to the Lord, secularity, sensuality, frivolity? The occasion calls upon us also to mark the silent and scarcely perceptible manner in which our stock of time is diminishing.

A traveller (so runs the story) placed on one occasion behind him in his valise the supply of gold requisite for his journey. The portmanteau, however, contained a small hole, and, on getting a considerable distance, its owner discovered, to his dismay, that a large portion of his treasure had dropped out unobserved by him. The ground over which he had passed was thickly covered with snow, and each coin as it treacherously fell on the white surface had given no intimation of its departure. Need we say, however, warned by his loss, the traveller bitterly lamented his carelessness, and doubly secured all that remained of his precious store? The anecdote carries its own obvious lesson. Silently and swiftly have fled away the precious hours of the past year. If they have been unimproved, loudly are we warned to arrest the waste of time and husband the new year, if it be given to us, for the service of God.—*Sunday at Home.*

TO PRACTICE righteousness and resist sin requires the indwelling strength of God. A steady hand writes a clear, strong line; the shaking, tremulous hand makes the crooked scrawl.—Faith is likened to an anchor, because it has a holding power; and that comes from the hold which God has upon the man who exercises it.—*Rev. T. L. Cuyler.*