



January.

The Old, Old Year is dead,
The snow lies on his bed;
The New Year has come merrily in with a
cheerful sound of bells;
The wind blows sharp and keen
The naked boughs between;
There are no song-birds in the woods, no
flowerets in the dells,
Sing hey! sing ho!
As down the slide we go,
With laugh and shout that ringeth out upon
the frosty air.
Sing up! sing down!
Oh, leave the sloppy town,
The sports, the pastimes, and the joys of
country boys to share.
The air is full of snow,
The cattle stand and low,
Knee deep in straw beside the barns and ricks
all roofed with white;
The huddled birds cry "cheep!"
Beside the folded sheep,
Whose fleeces brown and dingy look where all
is fair and bright;
Sing hey! sing ho!
As down the slide we go.

Fa-rewell, Year!

GOOD-BYE to thee, Year! Thou hast been to
me
A river of grace and goodness and love,
All from the heart of the Father above;
If the next be like, it will welcome be.

GOOD-BYE to thee, Year! I think of the sin
That has marked thy days as they floated
by:
I pray that the year which is now so nigh
A holier, happier life begin

THOU, Lord, art all love and goodness and
grace;
I am all weakness and failure, I know;
Dear Lord, in thy love, O wilt thou not
show
How better the lines of my life to trace?

I think of thee, Lord, and the year is bright;
I think of myself, and the clouds arise;
Then I turn from self unto thee mine eyes,
And my sin is gone, and my heart is light.

I will only think of the days now past,
That less on myself I may learn to rely;
That more to my Lord for help I may fly,
For his grace, I know, to the end will last.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

B.C. 4004.] **LESSON II.** [Jan 14.

ADAM'S SIN AND GOD'S GRACE.

Gen. 3. 1-15. Memory verses, 13-15.

GOLDEN TEXT.

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.—1 Cor. 15. 22

OUTLINE.

1. Sin, v. 1-6.
2. Guilt, v. 7-14.
3. Grace, v. 15

PLACE.—The garden of Eden.

CONNECTING LINKS.

The second chapter of Genesis repeats the story of the creation of man, and gives many additional incidents.

EXPLANATIONS.

"The serpent"—The story implies that the Evil Spirit took possession of a serpentine body. "Almost throughout the whole oriental world the serpent is an emblem of the evil principle." "Subtle"—Acute. "The woman"—Her influence was incalculable; for she was the only woman in the whole world. "Yea, hath God said"—The phrase implies a doubt: Is it true that God so said? "Tree which is in the midst"—called in chapter 2. 17, "The tree of the knowledge of good and evil." "Your eyes shall be opened"—An appeal to the curiosity of human nature. A suggestion that God had not given or shown them all there was to be given or seen. "Be as gods"—Better, be like God: know as much as he knows. "Knowing good and evil"—It was an awful truth that Satan spoke. Doing the evil brought the knowledge. "They knew"—Now that the serpent's promise is kept, it is the knowledge of sin and shame that they receive. "Sowed"—Rather plaited or fastened. "Aprons"—Perhaps wreaths or girdles. "The voice . . . walking"—at this time humanity was in universal babyhood. Through most of the Bible history the race was in its childhood, but steadily, as man became able to receive larger conceptions of the Godhead, God revealed himself. He is here represented as taking the form and voice of a man. "The woman whom thou gavest"—He blames the woman directly, and implies that God is at fault. "Beguiled"—Led astray. "Above all cattle"—All animals. "Dust . . . shalt thou eat"—Thou shalt be compelled to lie on the ground. "Enmity"—Hatred. "Bruise thy heel"—A promise of a coming Saviour. "Bruise his heel"—The Serpent-bruise must himself suffer.

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

1. Adam was made in God's image, but

when God was not present he could not stand against Satan

2. There were three steps in Eve's sin: (a) she listened; (b) she looked; (c) she took.

3. Sin is infectious. A sin-stricken snake whispered to Eve. She sinned and spoke to Adam; he sinned and passed it on to the rest of the world. Cholera and smallpox are more easily controlled than sin.

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. How was the first woman tempted? "By the serpent." 2. To what crime was she tempted? "To disobedience of God." 3. Wherein did the disobedience consist? "In eating the forbidden fruit." 4. What result came to man from this act? "A state of sin and death." Through whom was a final triumph over the serpent promised? "Through the seed of the woman." 6. What is the Golden Text? "For as in Adam all die," etc.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Man's sinful condition.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

Is that the only lesson?
No; we learn the blessed truth that God is love, for it was His love that provided the Saviour for men.

LITTLE SINS.

SATAN seldom comes to Christians with great temptations or with temptations to commit a great sin. You bring a green log and a candle together, and they are very safe neighbours; but bring a few shavings and set them alight, then bring a few small sticks and let them take fire, and let the log be in the midst of them, and you will soon get rid of your log. And so it is with little sins. You would be startled at the idea of committing a great sin, and so the devil brings you a little temptation and leaves you to indulge yourself. "There is no harm in this, no great good in that;" and so by these little chips we are first easily lighted up, and at last the green log is burned. "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation."—John Newton.

35th Thousand.

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