



Address—COUSIN JOY, 282 Princess St. St. John, N. B.

DEAR COUSIN JOY,—Will you tell me why we have a holiday on New Year's Day and have a good time and give gifts to each other? I know about Christmas but I don't know about New Year's. Does the Bible say anything about it? I asked my Auntie and she said she did not know. I thought perhaps you would.

Queens. Your loving Cousin Mamie.

It is a very old custom. The Romans had it in the time of the early Christians, and as far as we know it has always been the great national holiday of the Chinese people. If you look in the 8th chapter of Genesis you will see that it was on New Year's day that Noah looked out of the Ark and saw that the water was dried on the face of the earth. He and his family must have had a great time of rejoicing that day. But we do not know of any command to keep the day. It is love and gratitude that makes us keep Christmas day.

In England they have mile-stones to mark the distances. New Year's Day may be called a mile stone, for it shows how far God has brought us on our way and that we are to take a fresh start on another year. So it is a good time for thought and to make good resolutions. If we try to make each year better than the last, every year will be good, and our whole lives a continued feast.

DEAR COUSIN JOY,—I am a member of the Cheerful Workers Mission Band. We meet every fortnight on Saturday afternoon. About thirty belong to our Band. A good many of us take the PALM BRANCH, it is a nice little paper. We do enjoy reading about those little Chinese babies who are being cared for by the good Missionaries. We hope they will soon get a suitable home to take care of them in. We have very good meetings at our Band. Good bye for this time, from

Cousin H. E. F. H.

Port Grenville.

DEAR COUSIN JOY,—This is the first time I have written to you. There are two weeks before Christmas, and then New Year's day. We are going to have lots

of candy and nuts. We were having such a lovely time on the shore this summer. I belong to the King's Messenger Band of Centenary Church. We are trying to do something to help the heathen in far-off countries.
John, N. B. Yours lovingly, Ellie B. Smith.

DEAR COUSIN JOY,—Although I am a little boy I am a member of the Mission Band and am trying to do a little work for Jesus. I take the PALM BRANCH and like it very much. Is Charlottetown the answer to the last puzzle in November number? I have a little puzzle myself and if you will you may put it in the paper.

Yours lovingly, Hill H. Cheney.

Bloomfield, Car. Co.

You are right, Hill—it is Charlottetown—glad to hear from you.

DEAR COUSIN JOY,—I belong to the Thanksgiving Mission Band. This is the first time I have written. The Band was organized on Thanksgiving day. I take the PALM BRANCH and like it very much. I have heard so much about you that I thought I would write. I will close. from

Nellie Anderson.

Pioneer, Car. Co.

A NEW YEAR.

"It's coming, boys,
It's almost here;
It's coming, girls,
The Grand New Year!
A year to be glad in,
Not to be bad in;

A year to live in, to gain and give in;
A year for trying, and not for sighing;
A bright New Year! Oh, hold it dear!
For God who sendeth, he only lendeth."

PUZZLES FOR JANUARY.

I am composed of 9 letters.

My 1, 3, is a pronoun.

My 8, 2, 9, is part of the head.

My 4, 5, 6, 7, is what a river does.

My whole is a Band in Carleton County.

HILL.

I am composed of 11 letters.

My 9, 6, 11, is not night.

My 2, 10, 7, is part of the body.

My 8, 6, 4, is to express,

My 1, 5, 3 is not old,

My whole is the name of a day.

ELLIE.

I am composed of 21 letters.

My 18, 16, 17, is a covering for the head,

My 21, 13, 1, 19, is a place for play.

My 18, 4, 3, 6, is a boy's nick-name

My 5, 2, is a pronoun,

My 9, 18, 7, 1, 11, means in that place,

My 15, 7, 12, 17, is a word in the superlative degree.

My 10, 20, 3, is something to eat.

My 14, is a consonant.

My whole is what we are commanded to do.

Nappan.

Minnie Blenkhorn.