

CHRISTMAS.

"CHRISTMAS is coming!" the children cry,
Counting the weeks that are hurrying by—
Dear little children, who live at home,
And do not guess what it is to roam
From morn to night, with stockingless feet,
Up and down through the ice and sleet.

"Christmas is coming!" thinks little Tim:
But what can the Christmas do for him?
His home is a cellar, his daily bread
The crumbs that remain when the rich are
fed;

No mother to kiss him when day is done,
No place to be glad in under the sun.

That wonderful fellow, old Santa Claus,
Who never is idle a moment, because
He is kept so busy with piling the toys
Into the stockings of rich girls and boys,—
No wonder he sometimes forgets, you know,
Into the homes of the poor to go.

But, dear little children, you understand
That the rich and the poor all over the land
Have one dear Father, who watches you,
And grieves or smiles at the things you do;
And some of his children are poor and sad,
And some are always merry and glad.

Christmas will bring to some of you joys,
Food and plenty, frolic and toys;
Christmas to some will bring nothing at all;
In place of laughter the tears will fall.
Poor little Tim to your door may come;
Your blessings are many; spare him some.

The Christmas bells will sweetly ring
The songs that the angels love to sing—
The song that came with the Saviour's birth:
'Peace, good-will, and love on earth.'
Dear little children, ring, I pray,
Sweet bells in some lonely heart that day.

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN JEWISH HISTORY.

B.C. 980-975] LESSON XII. [Dec. 22.

CLOSE OF SOLOMON'S REIGN.

1 Kings 11. 26-43. Commit to mem. vs. 42-43.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole
matter: Fear God, and keep his command-
ments: for this is the whole duty of man.
Eccl. 12-13.

OUTLINE.

1. Abijah's Prophecy, v. 26-39.
2. Solomon's Death, v. 40-43.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

What was Solomon's sin? Idolatry.
What led him into sin? Disobedience.

What does the Lord always punish? Sin.
What did the Lord raise up against Solo-
mon? Enemies.

Who was Jeroboam? The son of Nebat.
What was he? A brave soldier.
What had Solomon made him? A ruler.
Who met Jeroboam one day? The pro-
phet Abijah.

What did Abijah do? Tore his new gar-
ment into twelve pieces.

How many pieces did he tell Jeroboam
to take? Ten.

What did he say the Lord would do?
Give ten tribes to Jeroboam.

What did Solomon try to do when he
heard this? Kill Jeroboam.

To what country did Jeroboam flee? To
Egypt.

How long did he stay there? Till Solo-
mon died.

Who was king in Solomon's place? Jeho-
boam, his son.

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

"Fear God and keep his commandments."
As long as Solomon did this, he was happy
and prosperous.

But when he forgot God, and went his
own way, he began to meet trouble. Ene-
mies began to rise up against him and
friends to forsake him.

Obey God, and he will smile upon you.
Disobey him, and he will frown upon
you.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The ruin of sin

CATECHISM QUESTION.

29. Where will the righteous enjoy this
life? In heaven.

TEMPERANCE LESSON.

B.C. 1000]

[Dec. 29.

Prov. 23. 29-35.

Commit to mem. vs. 29-32.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging;
and whosoever is deceived thereby is not
wise. Prov. 20. 1.

OUTLINE.

1. Woe, v. 29-30
2. Warning, v. 31-35.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

"Who hath woe?" "They that tarry
long at the wine."

"Who hath sorrow?" "They that go to
seek mixed wine."

What more do they have? Quarrels and
foolish talk.

"Who hath wounds without cause?"
Drunken people

What else have they? "Redness of eyes."
What is the only safety? Not to look
upon the wine.

How does it appear at first? Very plea-
sant

What does it do at the last? It bites like
a serpent.

Like what does it sting? Like an adder.
What does a drunken man utter? "Per-
verse things."

How do things look to him? They wear
false colours.

What is he not able to trust? His senses.
What does he learn to love? His fetters.
Who cannot inherit the kingdom of
heaven? A drunkard.

Who only can break the drunkard's
chains? The Lord.

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

Does the brandy-drop or the wine candy
seem very small and innocent? O, what
sad things are hidden in it! Woe, sorrow,
quarrels, silly talk, painful wounds, bleared
eyes!

God's word is true!

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The deceit-
fulness of sin.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

30. What sort of a place is heaven?
Heaven is a place of light and glory.

CHEERFULNESS.

GOD bless the cheerful person—man,
woman, or child, old or young, illiterate or
educated, handsome or homely! Over and
above every social trait stands cheerfulness.
What the sun is to nature, what God is to
the stricken heart which knows how to lean
upon him, are cheerful persons in the house
or by the wayside. They go unobtrusively,
unconsciously, about their silent mission,
brightening up society around them with
the happiness beaming from their faces.
We love to be near them; we love the glance
of their eye, the tone of their voice. Little
children find them out, oh, so quickly! amid
the densest crowd, and passing by the knit-
ted brow and compressed lip, glide near, and
laying a little hand on their knees, lift their
clear young eyes to those loving faces.

LILY OF THE ALLEY.

A YOUNG mother living in Detroit has one
charming little daughter named Lily, who is
fond of playing out of doors.

The other day she came home covered
with mud.

"Oh, oh!" said the mother severely. "Can
it be possible that this is my good little girl
—my sweet, pure Lily-of-the-valley?"

"No, mamma," answered the little girl,
sorrowfully. "I guess I'm your bad, naughty
Lily-of-the-alley now."