

A CHRISTMAS CAROL.

Listen, children, to the music
That the old church bells do make;
Ringing out this Christmas morning,
For the dear Redeemer's sake;
'Tis his birthday, and we keep it
In this lovely land of ours:
In the farm-house, cottage, mansion,
Pleasantly we pass the hours.

Long ago, in Bethlehem's stable,
Christ was born, the baby King;
"Peace on earth," the watching shepherds
Heard the holy angels sing.
And the music has not ceased,
But has through the ages rolled,
And "good will" among the nations
Has increased a thousandfold.

Let our hearts be full of sunshine,
Though the frost is on the pane,
And old Winter, keen but kindly,
Come to visit us again.
And with snowy robe he covers
All the bleak and barren ground,
And makes fairy forms of beauty
Where the leafless trees abound.

Ring, ye bells! 'tis sweet to listen;
Sing, ye waits, outside the door,
Echoes of that wondrous music
That was heard in days of yore.
Decorate the house with holly,
Let the bright red berries shine,
While we celebrate the birthday
Of our loving Lord Divine.

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

LESSON XIII. [Dec. 24.]

CHRIST'S COMING FORETOLD.

Isa. 9. 2-7. Memory verses, 6. 7.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.—Luke 2. 11.

DO YOU KNOW?

Who was Isaiah? A prophet. What is a prophet? One who can see things in the future. How long did he live before Christ came? Whom did he see was coming to this earth? What did he say about this world? That it was a dark place. When is a heart a dark place? When Christ has not come into it. How did Christ come to this world? As a little child. What is true about his kingdom? That it is growing all the time. Why is Jesus called "Wonderful?" Because he could do miracles. What is a counsellor? One who can tell us what to do. Why is he called the Prince of Peace? Because his peace can keep the heart. Who may have his peace? Any one who will take it.

DAILY HELPS.

- Mon. Read the beautiful lesson verses. Isa. 9. 2-7.
- Tues. Read John's words about light and darkness. John 1. 4-9.
- Wed. Learn another prophecy by Isaiah about Christ. Isa. 7. 14.
- Thur. Learn why a Son was given to the world. John 3. 16.
- Fri. Find what Jesus said about his power. Matt. 28. 18.
- Sat. Learn the sweet words of Jesus about peace. John 14. 27.
- Sun. Find how long Christ's kingdom is to last. Dan. 2. 44.

FOURTH QUARTERLY REVIEW.

December 31.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.—Psalm 103. 2.

Titles and Golden Texts should be thoroughly studied.

- 1. Joy in G.'s H. - I was glad when—
- 2. H.'s P. A. the J. - If God be for—
- 3. E. P. for H. P. - Commit thy way—
- 4. E.'s J to J. - The hand of our God—
- 5. P. of D. - They that sow in—
- 6. N.'s P. - Prosper, I pray thee—
- 7. R. the W. of J. - Watch and—
- 8. P. R. of the S - The ears of all—
- 9. W. of I. - Wine is a—
- 10. K. the S. - Remember the—
- 11. L. in G. - God loveth a—
- 12. F. of R. and W. D. Whatsoever a—
- 13. C.'s C. F. - Unto you is born—

WORSHIPPING DOLLS.

A missionary in a Catholic county writes: "They are having a dance at the next door to-day. We went up on the top of the house this afternoon to see it. A very queer thing for us to do, but it was a religious ceremony with them. About Christmas they get a little doll and put it in a little bed—like a manger—and have ever so many little mangers (they call them mourners) placed around. Of course the doll represents Jesus, and they say that is just the way that he was born. To-day they take the doll and dress it and take down the manger, so that is the cause of the dance. They will keep the doll all the year as their saint, and next year they will undress it and put it back in the little bed, and go through the same performance. They are also going to have a penate breaking. That is a great game here with both rich and poor. They have a large doll or chicken, or something fancy, made of bright paper so that they can put one of the earthenware vessels in it. This vessel is filled with candy, and each person is blindfolded, one at a time, given a stick, and allowed three strokes at the penate. Of course the one that hits it breaks the vessel, the candy spills, and then there is a scramble for it. Children, do you not think that the people who worship a little doll need the true gospel?"

THE CHILD OF BETHLEHEM.

BY EMMA A. LENTE.

Oh, listen, little children, while a story I shall tell,
It is no new, new story, but one you know quite well;
But each year makes it sweeter, more real and more dear,
It can't be told too often, nor too often can you hear.

'Pon a strange and far-off town one quiet, solemn night
Almost two thousand years ago there shone a wondrous light;
A new star had arisen, and it moved along the air,
Till it stood above the manger-bed where lay a Baby fair.

The tired, patient beasts moved down to make for him a place—
The little stranger guest from heaven who might any palace grace;
His mother leant above him with such loving, wondering eyes,
The Wise Men knelt before his feet in rapt and glad surprise.

And out along the winding streets and o'er the shepherds' plains
There floated sounds of music sweet—such rare and thrilling strains;
While light streamed down from heaven till the watchers of the sheep
Were filled with awe and questioning and wonders strange and deep.

And they hushed their hearts' wild beating, an angel's voice to hear,
And he told his loving message, and the chorus high and clear
Was caught and sung by multitudes of seraphs in the sky,
And mortal ears had never heard such glorious minstrelsy.

Filled with delight the shepherds ran the little Child to greet;
The costly gifts the Magi brought lay round about his feet;
And calm he slept and sweet he smiled, and all the lowly place
Was filled with breath of incense, and with majesty and grace.

And now each year with willing hands we deck his birthday tree,
And tell the story o'er and o'er, so dear to you and me;
We sing the joyous carols while the glad bells swing and sway,—
The little Child of Bethlehem is King of heaven to-day!

GOD CARETH.

Something round which it may twine,
God gives ev'ry little vine.
Some little nook or sunny bower,
God gives ev'ry little flower.
Some green bough or mossy sward,
God gives ev'ry little bird.
Night and day, at home, abroad,
Little ones are safe with God.