

GETTING READY FOR CHRISTMAS.

THERE'S a subtle air of mystery about the house to-day,
There are whisperings and hidings, but not in merry play,
There's a sound of shutting boxes, there's a noise of scampering feet,
When the children come with sober steps, with faces grave and sweet.

There are breakings-up and savin'rs-banks, odd pennies from papa;
There are earnest consultations with aunty and mamma;
There are calls for bits of satin, skeins of zephyr, shreds of floss;
There are searchings in thick folios for autumn leaves and moss.

No diamonds ever shone as bright as mother's eyes to-night,
And no gifts with money purchased could give such rare delight!
Though the stitches be uneven and the blunders not a few,
She only sees the perfect work her darlings try to do.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

B.C. 538.] LESSON I. [Jan. 1.
RETURNING FROM THE CAPTIVITY.
Ezra 1. 1-11. Memory verses, 5, 6.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The Lord thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee.—Deut. 30. 3.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where in this lesson are we taught—

1. That God is to be honoured above all earthly rulers?
2. That the kings of the earth should serve him?
3. That all people should serve him?

HOME WORK FOR YOUNG BEREANS.

Find the name of the king who furnished the temple of God with golden vessels.
The king who replenished the temple of God with brazen vessels.
The king who bought peace by giving the vessels of the temple to his nation's enemy.
The king in whose reign the vessels here mentioned were taken from Jerusalem to Babylon.
The king who sacrilegiously used these vessels at a banquet.

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. Who restored the Jews to their native land? Cyrus, King of Persia.
2. Who stirred up his spirit to do this? The Lord.
3. Who gladly returned to build the

house of the Lord? The people of Judah and Benjamin.

4. What did Cyrus give them? The vessels which Nebuchadnezzar had stolen.
5. What is the Golden Text? The Lord thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee

CATECHISM QUESTIONS

What is the state of those who do not forsake their sins and believe in Jesus Christ? The wrath of God abideth on them.

Why does not God take away the wicked at once? He gives sinners time to repent

B.C. 536.] LESSON II [Jun 8

REBUILDING THE TEMPLE.

Ezra 3. 1-13 Memory verses 10, 11.

GOLDEN TEXT.

They praised the Lord because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid—Ezra 3 11.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where in this lesson are we taught—

1. To make free-will offerings to the Lord?
2. To render hearty service to the Lord?
3. To offer joyful praise to the Lord?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What did the returned captives do at Jerusalem? They gathered themselves together as one man.
2. What did they offer to God? Burnt offerings and prayers.
3. For what did they give money? To build again the house of God
4. In what did the priests and the Levites lead the people? In singing praise to God.
5. What did the people do? Some wept while others shouted for joy.
6. What is the Golden Text? "They praised the Lord because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid."

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

What becomes of those who do not repent? After death they will be cast out of God's presence forever.

Will all men be judged hereafter? Yes, we must all be judged at the last day.

MRS. WILSON'S HAPPY CHRISTMAS

"Oh, mamma, it's awful cold," cried poor little Benny.

"Never mind, dear, never mind, we'll soon be there. It's beautiful snow, God made it." So mamma tried to cheer up the little fellow.

She needed some one to cheer her, poor woman. The wind blew her scanty clothing, and she had the baby to hold and hug while she dragged little Benny across the bleak meadow.

Eva Beame saw them from the window. "Poor Mrs. Wilson," said she. "It's an awful storm."

By this time they had reached the house. Mrs. Beame opened the door and welcomed them into the large, warm kitchen.

"It's a bad day for you and the babies, Mrs. Wilson," said she

"Yes'm, but you see we wanted to go to the festival down to the Hollow."

"It's a give away," said Eva. "We shan't get anything for ourselves to-day. The Sunday-school are to pack a missionary box."

"I know; we didn't come to get, we came to give, Mrs. Eva. It's more blessed to give than to receive." Eva looked as if wondering what a poor washerwoman like Mrs. Wilson had to give.

"I've got something to put in the box," said Mrs. Wilson, and she drew from her bosom a pretty little gilt-edged Testament. "A good lady gave me this year ago," she said, "and I got a sight by it, but I've got a Bible, and I wanted somebody to have this who hasn't any."

"I've got sumphen too," shouted Benny, and three nickels in a tin box began to jingle.

"He's so proud of them," said his mother; "his grandma gives him one every birthday."

"You ought to let him keep them," said Mrs. Beame.

"And not let him share the good of giving? Benny loves Jesus, don't you, dearie? And wants to give him a Christmas gift too."

Eva began to feel ashamed of the two old aprons she was going to put in the box. "I mean to give my Pansy Picture Book," she said, "that's the prettiest thing I've got."

The sleigh took them all to the church, where they sang and gave their gifts notwithstanding the raging storm outside. And they were all very happy.

"It's the best Christmas I ever had," said Mrs. Wilson.

WHAT DO YOU GIVE?

EDITH was a dear little girl who went to our infant school. Her papa gave her pennies every Sunday to put in the missionary box. One day she heard her papa read what David said, that he would "not offer burnt-offerings unto the Lord of that which cost him nothing." She thought about it a great deal, for she said, "My pennies cost me nothing, and that is all I give." She talked with mamma about it, and mamma said, "Yes, that is so. Papa gives those pennies, instead of you." Mamma and papa often gave Edith pennies to buy fruit and candies with. So, after thinking it over, she said, "I will save half my candy money. That will cost me something; and then I will give papa's pennies for him." So that is what she did; and she felt a great deal happier to give what cost her something. Then, as she grew older, she learned to give her time and thought and care to those around her. Would you not like to try her plan, little friends? God is always pleased with such a gift to him.