

UNITED CHURCH  
WIVES

# SUNDAY SCHOOL BANNER

for  
TEACHERS  
AND  
YOUNG PEOPLE.

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## A Happy New Year.

BY MARIANNE FARNINGHAM.

I SEND to you a greeting,  
Dear, unknown friends, to-day,  
Wherever you may journey  
God speed you on your way !  
God's smile be on you, every one,  
The distant and the near,  
And make the time that comes to us  
A happy, happy year !

We have not seen the faces  
That many of you wear,  
But we know they oft are shaded  
By sorrow and by care.  
We cannot hear the voices  
That sing the songs of earth,  
But we know that sometimes there are sighs  
To check the joyous mirth.

We often kneel together  
Before our Father's feet,  
Perhaps we pass each other  
Along the crowded street.  
We shall go home together,  
And know as we are known  
Within our Father's house above  
When He shall call His own.

And so we send our wishes  
To you across the snow ;  
Our heart longs for the blessings  
Which you desire to know.  
God make, if it be best for you,  
The trouble-storm to cease,  
And give to you true riches,  
And fill you with His peace !

May winter days grow cheery  
With love for warmth and light ;  
May summer's joy last all the year  
To make your spirits bright ;  
May labour have its guerdon  
Of good reward and rest,  
And with the holiest benison  
May each of you be blest !

May this new year be better  
Than any gone before,  
Filled with devoted service,  
And crowned with Plenty's store.  
God cheer it with His presence,  
And, if it be the last,  
Grant an eternity of bliss  
When the fleeting years are past.

## Damascus Gate, Jerusalem.

THIS is the most imposing and beautiful gate of the city. The pointed arch, turretted battlements, and projecting parapets make it exceedingly picturesque. It was formerly known as St. Stephen's Gate, because near a church which was built upon the traditional site of St. Stephen's martyrdom. The masonry is thought to belong to different periods, the older portion probably dating back to the age of the sanctuary wall. It is altogether probable, as Eastern streets and gates retain their positions age after age, that through this (a gate standing on the very site of this) Paul must often have passed on his way to and from Damascus, and that near by he stood holding the clothes of those who stoned Stephen. The mounds on each side are accumulations of rubbish which have grown undisturbed age after age.

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