

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS.

THERE were three little folks, long ago,
Who solemnly sat in a row
On a December night,
And attempted to write
For the new year a good resolution.

"I will try not to make so much noise,
And be one of the quietest boys,"
Wrote one of the three,
Whose uproarious glee
Was the cause of no end of confusion.

"I resolve that I never will take
More than two or three pieces of cake,"
Wrote plump little Pete,
Whose taste for the sweet
Was a problem of puzzling solution.

The other, her paper to fill,
Began with, "Resolved that I will,"
But right there she stopped,
And fast asleep dropped
Ere she came to a single conclusion.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF OUR LORD.

A.D. 27.] LESSON I. [Jan. 6.

JOHN THE BAPTIST BEHEADED.

Mark 6. 17-29. Memory verses, 26-28.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Fear not them which kill the body, but
are not able to kill the soul.—Matt. 10. 28.

OUTLINE.

1. John's Testimony, v. 17-20.
2. John's Death, v. 21-29.

THE LESSON STORY.

Perhaps you have seen a signboard, with
a hand on it, pointing out the way.

We may think of John the Baptist as a
hand pointing to Jesus. He was a good and
fearless man, quick to rebuke sin wherever
he saw it.

When King Herod took his own brother's
wife and married her, John did not fear
to rebuke the king. This made Herodias,
the queen, very angry. She wanted to
kill John, but Herod would only put him
in prison. Herod feared John, knowing
that he was a holy man.

After a while Herod made a great birth-
day party. Herodias had a daughter who
came and danced before the king and his
company. The king was so pleased that
he promised to give her anything she
should ask.

Her cruel mother told her what to say,
and she asked for the head of John the
Baptist on a charger, or platter. The king
was very sorry, but he thought he must
keep his word. So John's head was cut
off and given to these two wicked women!
Do you think, then, that God forgot his
brave servant? Oh, no; he had a better

home for him there a dungeon, and the mar-
tyr John found a happy rest there.

LESSON HELPS FOR EVERY DAY.

Mon. Read the lesson verses carefully.

Mark 6. 17-29.

Tues. Read the same story in Matthew.

Matt. 14. 1-12.

Wed. Learn why John was not afraid.

Golden Text.

Thur. Find why the king feared John.

Verse 20.

Fri. Learn why John was called "the
Baptist." Mark 1. 4, 5.Sat. Find a blessing pronounced upon
such as John. Matt. 5, 6.

Sun. Read Psalm 37. 7-14.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON STORY.

[Will you not try, dear child, to answer
every one of these questions on the Lesson
Story?]

How may we think of John the Baptist?
What kind of a man was he? Is it right
to rebuke sin?

Was this the King Herod who killed the
babies? No; this was that king's son.
Whom did he marry? What law did he
break in doing this? God's law. Who
rebuked him? Who became very angry?
Why did not Herod kill John?

What party did Herod give? Who
danced before him? What did he promise
to do? Who told her what to say? For
what did she ask? How did the king
feel? Why did he grant her request? Did
God forget his servant John?

REMEMBER—

"Prisons would palaces prove
If Jesus would dwell with me there."

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

*Through whom do we receive the grace
of the Holy Spirit? Only through our
Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*

*Does the Saviour care for children? Yes;
for he said, "Suffer the little children to
come unto me, and forbid them not."*

A.D. 28.] LESSON II. [Jan. 13.

FEEING FIVE THOUSAND.

Mark 6. 30-44. Memory verses, 41, 42.

GOLDEN TEXT.

He hath filled the hungry with good
things.—Luke 1. 53.

OUTLINE.

1. Need, v. 30-36.
2. Abundance, v. 37-44.

LESSON STORY.

Jesus and the disciples went across the
Sea of Galilee to find a quiet place in which
to rest. But a great crowd of hungry,
troubled people followed them. Some were
sick, and all were weak and sinful.

Jesus needed rest, but he did not think
of himself. All day long he taught, and
healed the sick. When night came the
disciples wished to send the people away.

But Jesus said no, "Give ye them to eat."

How surprised the disciples were! There
were five thousand men besides women
and children. They had not money enough
to buy food for half so many!

Andrew said there was a boy who had
five loaves and two fishes, but what could
they do with so little?

But Jesus told them to make the people
sit down on the green grass. Then he took
the five loaves and the two small fishes and
asked God to bless them. And he gave
some to each of his disciples to pass to the
people.

God blessed the simple meal so that each
had enough, and there were twelve basket-
fuls left.

Jesus could have made this bread out
of stones, but instead he used a little boy's
lunch. Perhaps it was to show that little
children may help.

LESSON HELPS FOR EVERY DAY.

Mon. Read the lesson carefully. Mark 6.

30-44.

Tue. Read the same story in John 6. 1-14.

Wed. Read the story in Matt. 14. 13-21.

Thur. Find what Luke says about it. Luke

9. 10-17.

Fri. Learn the Golden Text and find who
uttered it.

Sat. Find what Jesus called himself.

John 6. 48.

Sun. Ask, "Have I eaten the Bread of
Life?"

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON STORY.

Where did Jesus go to rest? Who went
with him? Who followed them? Why
did they follow Jesus? What did Jesus
do all day?

What did the disciples want to do at
night? What did Jesus say? How many
were there to be fed? Did the disciples
have money enough to buy food for so
many? No; Jesus and the disciples were
poor.

What had Andrew seen a boy have?
What did Jesus do? Who passed the food
to the people? Did all have enough? How
much was left over?

Who gives all the food we eat? Why
do we call this a miracle? Because it is
not the way we get our food now.

REMEMBER—

That Jesus cares about all our wants.

That Jesus said, "He that cometh to me
shall never hunger." John 6. 35.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

*Was he once a child Himself? Yes, and
we read about his infancy in the Gospels
of St. Matthew and St. Luke.*

*Do you know anything about the
Saviour when he was growing up? St.
Luke tells us that when he was twelve
years old he was found in the temple at
Jerusalem.*

The new pair of shoes came home for
little five-year-old. He tried them on,
and, finding that his feet were in very
close quarters, exclaimed: "Oh, my! They
are so tight that I can't wink my toes."