



TOBOGGANING ON CHRISTMAS MORNING.

THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON.

A true, sturdy little Canadian, not only not afraid of the cold and snow, but delighted to see it. Why do you talk so much about winter and have so many snow pictures, some one asks? Why? Because we have so much winter and so much snow. This is Canada, you know. But you make people think that Canada is somewhere around the North Pole and that we are frozen up all the year round. Do we! Well, just invite a few of those people up to visit us during the next two months and they will want a course of freezing too. Snow to a Canadian boy or girl is just what makes winter worth having. How they pity the poor things who never have shot down the mountain on a toboggan and do not know a snow-shoe from a tennis racket. A Christmas without snow is only half a Christmas.

'The boy that likes spring or summer or fall
Better than old King Winter
Is a sort of a bass-wood splinter—
Soft stuff; in fact, he's no boy at all.

'Away from the stove, and look out there!
Did ever you see a picture so fair?
King Winter, from mountain to plain
Not a beggar in all his train.
The poky old pump,
The ugliest stump;
One is in ermine from chips to chin,
The other—no lamb can begin
To look so warm and soft and full,
Though up to its eyes in wrinkles of wool.
See old Dame Post with her night-cap on,
Madam Bush in her shawl with the white nap on!
Crabbed old Bachelor Hedge—
Where, now, is his prickly edge?
And scraggy old Gran'sir Tree,
Shabby as shabby could be,
How he spreads himself in his uniform,
Lording it over the cold and the storm!

'Summer? Oh, yes, I know she will dress
Her dainty dear-dears in loveliness;
But Winter—The great and small,
Angelic and ugly, all
Ho tailors so fine, you would think each one
The grandest personage under the sun.

'Who is afraid he'll be bit to death
By a monster that bites with nothing but breath?
There's more real manhood, thirty to three,

In the little chicks of a chickadee:
Never were merrier creatures than they
When summer is hundreds of miles away.
Your stay-in-doors, bass-wood splinter
Knows not the first thing about winter.
A fig for your summer boys.
They're no whit better than toys.
Give me the chap that will off to town
When the wind is driving the chimney down,
When the bare trees bend and roar
Like breakers on the shore
Into the snow-drifts, plunged to his knees,—
Yes, in clear up to his ears, if you please,
Ruddy and ready, plucky and strong,
Pulling his little duck legs along:
The road is full, but he's bound to go through it.
He has business on hand, and is round to do it.
As yonder you see him, breaking paths for the
sleighs,
So he'll be on the lead to the end of his days:
One of Winter's own boys, a hero is he,
No bass-wood there, but good hard hickory!

A Merry, Merry Christmas, boys and
girls, old and young, the *Messenger* wishes
you all, and may each winter that passes
serve equally to increase your bodily
strength and your mental and moral worth.

JESUS CHRIST.

You can love Him, bless Him, praise
Him, study Him, ponder Him, comprehend
His character, study the types that set
Him forth, and imitate His life; and, in
this way, though your worship will not
blaze forth among the sons of men, and
scarcely benefit them as some other forms
of work, yet it will both benefit you and
be acceptable to your Lord. Beloved, re-
member what you have heard of Christ,
and what He has done for you; make your
heart the golden cup to hold the rich re-
collections of His past loving-kindness;
make it a pot of manna to preserve the
heavenly bread whereon saints have fed
in days gone by. Let your memory trea-
sure up everything about Christ which you
have either heard, or felt, or known, and
then let your fond affections hold Him fast
evermore. Love Him! Pour out that
alabaster box of your heart, and let all
the precious ointment of your affection
come streaming on His feet. If you can-
not do it with joy, do it sorrowfully; wash
His feet with tears, wipe them with the
hairs of your head; but do love Him, love
the blessed Son of God, your ever tender
Friend.—*Alliance News*.

SANTA CLAUS' PRAYER.

BY MARGUERITE MERRINGTON.

The children dreamed the whole night through
Of stockings hung the hearth beside;
And, bound to make each dream come true,
Went Santa Claus at Christmas-tide.

Black stockings, red, brown, white, and gray—
Long, little, warm, or patched and thin—
The kindly Saint found on his way,
And, smiling, popped his presents in.

But as he felt his hoard grow light,
A tear-drop glistened in his eye:
'More children on this earth to-night,
Than stars are twinkling in the sky.'

Upon the white and frozen snow
He knelt his empty bag beside—
'Some little socks must empty go,
Alas!'—said he—'this Christmas-tide!

'Thought their stockings may not heap
With gifts and toys and Christmas cheer,
Those little ones from sorrow keep;
For each dear Lord, to Thee is dear!

Thou wert a little Child like them'—
Prayed he—'For whom I would provide
Long years ago in Bethlehem,
That first and blessed Christmas-tide!

'As soothed Thee then Thy mother's kiss,
And all her comfort, sweet and kind,
So give them love, lest they may miss
The gifts I know not where to find!

'That sweetest gift, dear Lord, bestow
On all the children far and wide;
And give them hearts as pure as snow'
Prayed Santa Claus—'at Christmas-tide!'

SCHOLARS' NOTES.

(From Westminster Question Book.)

LESSON XIV.—DECEMBER 31, 1893.

REVIEW.

STUDIES IN THE EPISTLES.

GOLDEN TEXT.

'The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with
you all.—Rev. 22:21.

HOME READINGS.

M. Rom. 1:8-17; 3:19-26.—Lessons I., II.
T. Rom. 5:1-11; 12:1-15.—Lessons III., IV.
W. 1 Cor. 8:1-13; 15:12-26.—Lessons V., VI.
Th. 2 Cor. 8:1-12; Eph. 4:20-32.—Lessons VII.,
VIII.
F. Col. 3:12-25; James 1:16-27.—Lessons IX., X.
S. 1 Pet. 1:1-12; Rev. 1:9-21.—Lessons XI., XII.
S. Rev. 22:1-21; Matt. 2:1-12.—Lessons XIII., 12.

REVIEW EXERCISE.

Superintendent.—For what did Paul declare
his readiness?
School.—As much as in me is. I am ready to
preach the gospel to you that are at home also.

Supt.—What is revealed in the gospel?
School.—Therein is revealed a righteousness of
God by faith unto faith; as it is written, 'The
righteous shall live by faith.'

Supt.—Can we be justified by the law?
School.—By the deeds of the law there shall no
flesh be justified.

Supt.—How then may we be justified?
School.—Freely by His grace through the re-
demption that is in Christ Jesus.

Supt.—How has God shown his great love
for us?
School.—God commendeth his love toward us,
in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died
for us.

Supt.—Of what may we therefore be assured?
School.—If when we were enemies, we were
reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much
more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His
life.

Supt.—What does Paul exhort Christians to do?
School.—I beseech you therefore, brethren, by
the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a
living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which
is your reasonable service.

Supt.—What warning is given to those who by
their example lead others astray?
School.—When ye sin so against the brethren,
and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against
Christ.

Supt.—What pledge of abstinence did Paul
make?
School.—If meat make my brother to offend, I
will eat no flesh while the world standeth.

Supt.—What follows if there be no resurrection
of the dead?
School.—If the dead rise not, then is not Christ
raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.

Supt.—What great truth does Paul declare?
School.—But now is Christ risen from the dead,
and become the first fruits of them that slept.

Supt.—What was Paul's counsel to the Corin-
thians concerning liberality?
School.—As ye abound in everything, in faith,
and utterance, and knowledge, and in all dili-
gence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound
in this grace also.

Supt.—How are we to govern our words?
School.—Let no corrupt communication proceed
out of your mouth, but that which is good to the
use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto
the hearers.

Supt.—What command is given to children?
School.—Children, obey your parents in all
things; for this is well-pleasing unto the Lord.

Supt.—What command is given to parents?
School.—Fathers, provoke not your children to
anger, lest they be discouraged.
Supt.—What rule of conduct is given for all?
School.—Whatsoever ye do, in word or deed,

do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving
thanks to God and the Father by him.

Supt.—How should we receive God's word?
School.—It receive with meekness the engrafted
word, which is able to save your souls.

Supt.—How should we use the word?
School.—Be ye doers of the word, and not
hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

Supt.—How does Paul describe the Heavenly
Inheritance?
School.—An inheritance incorruptible, unde-
filed, and that fadeth not away, reserved in
heaven for you who are kept by the power of
God unto salvation ready to be revealed in the
last time.

Supt.—What did the Saviour declare of himself
to John?
School.—I am the first and the last; I am he
that liveth, and was dead; and behold, I am alive
for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell
and of death.

Supt.—What is the Great Invitation?
School.—The Spirit and the bride say, Come.
And let him that heareth say, Come. And let
him that is athirst come. And whosoever will,
let him take the water of life freely.

Supt.—What is the last benediction?
School.—The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be
with you all.

FIRST QUARTER.

OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY.

LESSON 1.—JANUARY 7, 1894.

THE FIRST ADAM.—Gen. 1:26-31; 2:1-3.

COMMIT TO MEMORY vs. 26-28.

GOLDEN TEXT.

'So God created man in his own image.—
Gen. 1:27.

HOME READINGS.

M. Gen. 1:1-31.—The Creation.
T. Gen. 2:1-25.—The Sabbath and Paradise.
W. John 1:1-18.—The Word of God.
Th. Heb. 1:1-14.—Christ's Pre-eminence.
F. Psalm 8:1-9.—What is Man?
S. Rev. 21:1-17.—New Heaven and a New Earth.
S. Rev. 22:1-21.—The New Paradise.

LESSON PLAN.

I. The Image of God. vs. 26, 27.
II. The Blessing of God. vs. 28-31.
III. The Sabbath of God. ch. 2:1-3.

TIME.—B.C. 4001.

PLACE.—The Garden of Eden, generally sup-
posed to have been somewhere in the district
through which the Euphrates flows.

OPENING WORDS.

We begin with this lesson the study of Genesis.
Its name means origin or birth. From this first
chapter we learn that the world has not always
existed; that it was created by God. The crea-
tion took place in six 'days' or creative periods.
The work of the first day was light; of the second
the firmament; of the third, dry land and veg-
etables; of the fourth, the sun, moon and stars;
of the fifth, fishes and birds; of the sixth, land
animals and man. On the seventh day God rested
from his work.

HELPS IN STUDYING.

26. *God said—willed, decreed. Let us make—*
implying counsel, agreement, and suggesting the
doctrine of the Trinity. *In our image—* consisting
in knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness
Col. 3:10; Eph. 4:24. 27. *Created he them—* only
one pair was created, and from that pair all man-
kind are descended. 28. *Meat—* food. There is
no mention of animal food for man until after
the Flood. Gen. 9:3. 31. *Very good—* no imper-
fection, no sin; everything beautiful. Chap. 2:1.
All the host of them— all they contained. 2. *Tested—*
ceased from the work of creation. 3. *Sanctified it—*
set it apart from other days, as holy. We have here
the institution of the weekly Sabbath.

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—Who wrote the book of Gen-
esis? Why is it so named? With what does it
begin? What is the work of creation? Name
the work of each day. Title? Golden Text?
Lesson Plan? Time? Place? Memory verses?

I. THE IMAGE OF GOD. vs. 26, 27.—On what day
was man created? Repeat v. 26. How does this
differ from the language introducing God's pre-
vious works? How did God create man? Of
what was man's body formed? Gen. 2:7. How
did he receive a soul?

II. THE BLESSING OF GOD. vs. 28-31.—What
was God's blessing upon mankind? Where did he
place man? Gen. 2:8. What work did he
give him? What was given him for food? When
was flesh allowed for food? What food was
provided for the lower animals? How did the
work of creation seem to God?

III. THE SABBATH OF GOD. ch. 2:1-3.—What
did God do on the seventh day? What special
honor did he give the seventh? Meaning of
blessed? Of *sanctified*? Which is the fourth
commandment? What is required in the fourth
commandment? How is the Sabbath to be sanc-
tified? What is forbidden in the fourth com-
mandment? What are the reasons annexed to
the fourth commandment?

PRACTICAL LESSONS LEARNED.

1. God is perfect in power, wisdom and good-
ness.
2. God made all things of nothing, by the word
of His power, in the space of six days, and all
very good.
3. God made man after his own image, in know-
ledge, righteousness and holiness.
4. We should love, serve and obey God.
5. We should remember the Sabbath day to
keep it holy.

REVIEW QUESTIONS.

1. How did God create man? Ans. In the
image of God created he him; male and female
created he them.
2. What did he give him? Ans. Dominion over
the creatures.
3. What was given him for food? Ans. Fruit
and vegetables.
4. What did God do on the seventh day? Ans.
He rested from all his work which he had made.
5. How did he honor the seventh day? Ans.
God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it.