

# SUNDAY SCHOOL BANNER

for  
TEACHERS  
AND  
YOUNG PEOPLE.

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## Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh.

GOLD, frankincense and myrrh, they brought  
the new-born Christ—

The wise men from the East—and in the ox's  
stall

The far-brought precious gifts they heaped,  
with love unpriced ;

And Christ the babe looked on and wondered  
not at all.

Gold, frankincense and myrrh, I, too, would  
offer Thee,

O, King of faithful hearts, upon Thy Christ-  
mas Day ;

And poor and little worth although the offer-  
ing be,

Because Thou art so kind, I dare to think I  
may.

I bring the Gold of Faith, which, through the  
centuries long,

Still seeks the Holy Child and worships at  
His feet,

And owns Him for its Lord, with gladness  
deep and strong,

And joins the angel choir, singing in chorus  
sweet.

The frankincense I bear is worship which can  
rise,

Like perfume floating up higher and higher  
still,

Till on the wings of prayer it finds the far blue  
skies,

And falls, as falls the dew, to freshen heart  
and will.

And last I bring the myrrh, half-bitter and  
half-sweet,

Of my own selfish heart, through sacrifice  
made clean,

And break the vase and spill the oil upon Thy  
feet,

O, Lord of Christmas Day, as did the Mag-  
dalene.

Gold, frankincense and myrrh—'tis all I have  
to bring

To Thee, O Holy Child, now throned in  
Heaven's mid !

Because Thou art so kind, take the poor offer-  
ing,

And let me go forth blessed, as once the  
Wise Men did.

## City of Van.

VAN is a city in Turkish Armenia, on the  
lake of the same name. Its population is about  
35,000. It is in a beautiful region of fruit trees  
and gardens. Its streets are in a miserable  
condition, and there are no notable buildings  
except the palace of the local authorities, the  
mosques, and the Armenian Churches. A  
chapel and school were opened in 1874 by the  
American missionaries. A rocky hill with per-  
pendicular cliffs and a ruined citadel extends  
over a mile. Inside the citadel are vast caves,  
with cuneiform inscriptions and other relics re-  
ferring to the days of Semiramis, who, accord-  
ing to tradition, laid out the city on a magnifi-  
cent scale, and gave it her name. It takes its  
present name from the Armenian King Van  
(371-351 B.C.), who embellished and extended  
the place. The accompanying cut is one of  
many illustrating the little-known region of  
Central Asia Minor and the Levant, with many  
other Bible lands—Syria, Palestine, Egypt, etc.  
—which will appear in the *Methodist Magazine*  
during 1888, and which will be of especial  
value to Sunday school teachers and superin-  
tendents.

AN Italian Protestant woman was once asked  
to prove that the Bible was the Word of God.  
She was confused ; she could not answer. Sud-  
denly she asked her questioner, "How do you  
know there is a sun in the sky?" "I feel its  
warmth and I see its light." "Just so," answered  
the woman joyfully ; "the Bible lightens and  
warms my souls."