

SUNDAY SCHOOL BANNER

for
TEACHERS
AND
YOUNG PEOPLE.

Vol. XXXII.

JANUARY, 1898.

No. 1.

A New Year's Thought.

BY REV. LOUISE S. BAKER.

The New Year marches in with song and cheer,

A bright face lifts to Faith's far-seeing eye,

Since winter cloud and whistling winds so drear,

Will surely pass and leave a shining sky.

'Neath dry, brown leaves the lovely May-flower hides,

Its green-sheathed buds safe held till flowering time;

So every trustful heart in peace abides,
Waiting the spring, its fragrant, joyful prime.

And under each dead past, for anxious soul,

Pressed down with snows of grief or dulling pain,

Life waits to flow from some undaunted stole,

To blossom in rich colour once again.

Though leafless trees like etchings clear now stand

Against the background of the sky's pearl-grey,

The New Year holds somewhere a hidden wand

To smite them into beauty in the May.

Countless the blessings which the old year brought!

Forget its sorrows, let its good remain.
Remember what was gained from battles fought,

And sing the victor's sweet and glad refrain.

God give a happy New Year to mankind!
Gird all his servants with a courage new!

Uphold the faint, give sight to those sin-blind,

And all who falter, with rare strength renew!

—Zion's Herald.

Lighting Up a Lesson.

An evidently distressed teacher asks, if it is right for a preacher to use anecdotes in the pulpit, why he cannot also do so in teaching a lesson. To tell a story simply for the sake of the story would not be justifiable in either preacher or teacher, but to use either a part of an incident, or to give it in its entirety, for the purpose of applying the truth of a sermon or a lesson, is eminently right and proper. Almost any Sunday-school lesson may well be lighted up in this manner, but care should be taken that the illustration used should not overshadow the truth one would teach. As a rule, only so much of any incident should be given in connection with the lesson as shall best really illustrate and enforce the truth to be taught. Unless this principle be regarded, there will be pleasant memories of the stories told, but little thought of what they illustrated. It is a pity for any teacher to be simply a good story-teller, in the effort to lighten up the lessons.—Baptist Teacher.

Evil thoughts are the sprouting of seed which Satan has planted.