

Letting in the New Year.

BY SUSAN ARCHER WEISS.

WHAT wonder that, as here I sit alone,
Counting the steps of the departing year,
Waiting the slow and solemn chime to hear,
That tolls the requiem of the Old Year gone,
A solemn air should o'er my spirit spread,
A strange, still sense of mystery and dread?

What wonder—when I know that at my door,
Unseen, unknown, the waiting New Year
stands,

Grasping a sealed scroll within his hands—
With strange, dim characters inscribed o'er—
Wherein lies hid in awful mystery
All that this coming year shall bring to me?

Perchance, that sealed scroll may hold withal
Some sad death-warrant for the friends I
prize;

Or my own name amongst them haply lies;
Or sorrows worse than death yet to befall;
Or there be writ in characters of gold
Some joy to crown my life with bliss untold.

I watch the old moon in its slow decline;
So pass, Old Year, beyond life's stormy sea!
Whate'er the waiting New Year bring to me
I know 'tis ordered by a hand divine,
So, fearless, 'mid the wild bells' mingled din,
I ope the door, and let the New Year in!

WE speak of the snow as an image of death.
It may be this, but it hides the everlasting life
under its robes—the life to be revealed in the
due time, when all cold shadows shall melt
away before the ascending Sun, and shall be
not unclad, but clothed upon, and mortality
shall be swallowed up of life.—*Robert Collyer.*

THE next century's church life the children
who are now in the Sabbath-schools will make.
What shall it be? We are very proud of our past
century's life; our fathers have done nobly, and
have lived well. Shall we dishonour their work
of the past by undoing it in the future? Shall
we not be inspired to make the new century a
fitting development from the old one? Shall
we not seek to maintain and defend in practice
the principles which have made the past so
glorious? Shall we not be loyal to the church,
to truth, to Christ? Shall we not seek to write
the name of our blessed Lord on all the in-
stitutions of our country? Shall we not struggle
manfully for the Bible, the Sabbath, the home?

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New Year's Greeting.

FELLOW Sunday-school workers, we stand on
the threshold of another year. Before we lift
the latch and enter in, let us seek guidance and
grace, that through its weeks and months we
may walk before God in all well-pleasing. And
should it be God's will that we shall not see its
close, let us spend what is left to us wisely and
well. We are swiftly passing to that heavenly
world where time is not measured by days and
years; but where eternity is one long now of
ceaseless praise. Let us, therefore, more than
ever, redeem the time, and whatsoever our
hands find to do, do with our might. So shall
this New Year be the best and happiest that
ever we have known.

Preparation for Teaching the
Sunday-school Lesson.

BY THOMAS SIMPSON.

OUR purpose is to present a few brief sugges-
tions or methods of preparation for teaching a
lesson from the Bible to a Sunday-school class,
which may be used by teachers in the different
departments of a Sunday-school. It is assumed
that the International Series of Sunday-school