

LESSON XII—December 20th, 1896.

The Birth of Christ. MATTHEW 2: 1-12.

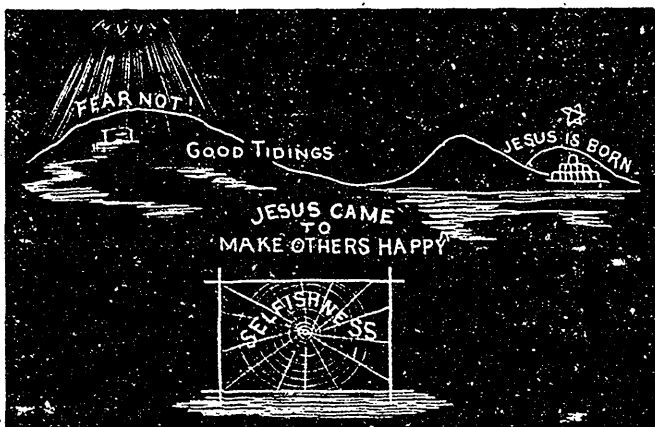
I. GOLDEN TEXT: And the angel said unto them, Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." Luke 2: 10.

II. PREVIEW THOUGHT: Make others happy.

III. REVIEW: What did Solomon mean when he said "be temperate?" Who does not like us to be temperate? What was last Sunday's Golden Text? What net of Satan's did we learn about last Sunday?

IV. LESSON STORY: Again we have come to our Christmas lesson. We always love to learn about the little babe whose birthday we celebrate at this time. Soon after Jesus was born, wise men came from the east to Jerusalem and said, "Where is he that is born king of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east and have come to worship him." They perhaps thought that Jesus was going to be an earthly king, and would likely be born in the royal palace in Jerusalem. When Herod the king heard what the wise men asked, he was troubled, fearing that this new king would come and take his place. So he called all the chief priests and scribes together and asked them where Jesus was to be born, not knowing that he had been born already. They told Herod that the Bible said that Jesus should be born in Bethlehem. When Herod heard this he privately called the wise men and asked them when they had seen the star, and told them to go to Bethlehem and search for the young child, and when they had found him to tell him, so that he might go and worship him too. Then they went to Bethlehem, and the star which they had seen in the east went before them until it stopped

over the place where Jesus was. They were very glad, and when they went into the house and saw Jesus and his mother Mary, they fell down and worshipped Jesus, and opened their treasures, and gave him gifts of gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. Being warned of God in a dream not to



go and tell Herod where Jesus was (for he was a wicked man and did not want to go and worship Jesus but to kill him), they did not do so, but went home to their own country by another way.

V. SUGGESTIVE STEPS IN TEACHING THE LESSON:

1. Have the Golden Text printed on the blackboard beforehand.
2. Have a picture of the spider's net drawn on the blackboard beforehand.
3. Next Friday will be Christmas day, and I am sure we will be all thinking about the happy time we are going to have, and perhaps about the presents we hope to get. Satan is going to be very busy this week spreading nets. He is going to try and make boys and girls think about themselves rather than about others. He wants them to forget the words that Jesus spoke "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

4. Tell the story of
 - (a) The shepherds.