

The Approach of Christmas.

It was the calm and silent night
Seven hundred years and fifty three
Had Rome been growing up to might,
And now was queen of land and sea!
No sound was heard of clashing arms,
Peace brooded o'er the hushed domain;
Apollo, Pallas, Jove, and Mars
Lied undisturbed their ancient reign,
In the solemn midnight,
Centuries ago.

'Twas in the calm and silent night
The Senator of haughty Rome
Impatient urged his chariot's flight,
From lordly revel rolling home!
Triumphal arches, glancing, swell
His breast with thoughts of boundless
away;
A paltry province far away,
In the solemn midnight,
Centuries ago!

Within that province far away,
Went plodding home a weary boor;
A streak of light before him lay,
Fallen through a half-shut stable-door,
And he paused, for naught
Told what was going on within:
How Leon the stars! his only thought;
The or how calm, and cold, and thin,
In the solemn midnight,
Centuries ago!

Oh, strange indifferance!—low and high
Drownd over common joys and cares;
The earth was still, but knew not why;
The world was listening—unawares!
How calm a moment may precede
One that shall thrill the world forever!
To that still moment none would heed,
Man's doom was linked, no more to sever,
In the solemn midnight,
Centuries ago!

It is the calm and silent night
A thousand bells ring out, and throw
Their joyous peals abroad, and smite
The darkness—charmed and hollow now!
The one that cast no blame had worn,
To it a happier name is given;
For in the stable lay, new-born,
The peaceful Prince of earth and heaven,
In the solemn midnight,
Centuries ago!

LESSON NOTES.

A.D. 96-98.] LESSON XII. [Dec. 19.
THE GREAT INVITATION.

Rev. 22: 8-21. Commit to mem. vs. 16, 17.
GOLDEN TEXT.

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

OUTLINE.

1. The Day of Destiny, v. 8-12.
2. The Tree of Life, v. 13-15.
3. The Last Words, v. 16-21.

TIME, PLACE.—Same as in Lesson IX.
EXPLANATIONS.—*The tree of life*—The
ever-living tree, that is always green and
always bearing fruit. See chap. 21. *Dogs,*
and swears, etc.—All people guilty of all
kinds of wickedness. *The morning star*
—the light-bringer, the herald of day. Jesus
was the light of the world. He ushered in
the true heavenly day. *The bride*—The
Church of Christ, typified by the city, the
new Jerusalem. See chap. 21: 9, 10. *The*
revelation of this book—This Revelation of
John is not all to be understood by men,
but it has been partly fulfilled, and, like all
God's prophecies, will yet all be.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where, in this lesson, are we taught—
1. The second coming of Jesus?
2. The sure reward of the righteous?
3. The fullness of gospel grace?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What did the angel say to John after
he had shown him the revelation? "Seal
not the sayings." 2. What was the message
of Christ? "Behold, I come quickly."
3. Who did he say are blessed? Those who
do his commandments. 4. To what are all

men invited? To take of the water of life.
5. What are the last words of the reve-
lation? "The grace," etc.
DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The gospel call.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

65. Into what state did the fall bring
mankind? By the fall mankind was brought
into a state of sin and misery.
Through one man sin entered into the
world, and death through sin; and so death
passed unto all men, for that all sinned.—
Romans v. 12.

FOURTH QUARTERLY REVIEW.

December 26.

REVIEW SCHEME.

Lesson I. *Jesus Betrayed.* John 18: 1-
14.—By whom was Jesus betrayed? Where
did Judas find Jesus? Whom did he take
with him into the garden? For whose
safety did Jesus plead? Who tried to
defend him? Before whom was Jesus
taken? (Repeat the GOLDEN TEXT.)

Lesson II. *Jesus Before Pilate.* John
18: 28-40.—Who brought Jesus before
Pilate? What did they desire Pilate to do?
What did Pilate say about Jesus? (GOLDEN
TEXT.) What proposition did he make?
Whose release did the Jews demand?

Lesson III. *Jesus Delivered to be Crucified.*
John 18: 1-16.—What insults were heaped
upon Jesus by the soldiers? What was the
demand of the Jews? What caused Pilate
to surrender Jesus? What title did he
give to Jesus? What did Pilate do at last?
(GOLDEN TEXT.)

Lesson IV. *Jesus Crucified.* John 19:
17-30.—Where was Jesus crucified? Who
suffered with him? What title was placed
over him? What was done with his
garments? To whom did he commend his
mother? What suffering caused his cry?
What were his last words on the cross?
(GOLDEN TEXT.)

Lesson V. *Jesus Risen.* John 20: 1-18.
—Who first sought the grave of Jesus?
What did she tell two of the disciples?
What did they find at the sepulchre? To
whom did Jesus appear in the garden? To
whom besides did he appear on the same
day? (GOLDEN TEXT.)

Lesson VI. *Thomas Convinc'd.* John
20: 19-31.—What disciple doubted the story
of the resurrection? What evidence did he
demand? Where did Jesus appear to him?
What test did he offer him? What was
Thomas's answer? (GOLDEN TEXT.)

Lesson VII. *Peter Restored.* John 21:
4-19.—Where did Jesus show himself again
to his disciples? Who first recognized
Jesus? What question was thrice asked of
Peter by Jesus? What was his command
to Peter? (GOLDEN TEXT.)

Lesson VIII. *Walking in the Light.* John
1: 5-10; 2: 1-6.—Who is the light of the
world? How may men walk in the light?
What blessing does this walk confer?
(GOLDEN TEXT.) What hope is there for
the sinner? Who is the sacrifice for all
sin?

Lesson IX. *John's Vision of Christ.*
Rev. 1: 4-18.—When did John have a vision
of Christ? What did he first hear? What
work did the voice bid John do? What did
he see? How did the Light affect John?
What did Jesus say of himself? (GOLDEN
TEXT.)

Lesson X. *Worshipping God and the
Lamb.* Rev. 5: 1-14.—What question did
the angel ask concerning the book? Who
was declared able to open it? Who joined
in the worship of the Lamb? What was
the song of the multitude? (GOLDEN TEXT.)

Lesson XI. *The Saints in Heaven.* Rev.
7: 9-17.—What is said of the number of the
saints in heaven? What was their song of
praise? How were the saints clothed?
What had been their condition on earth?
What did the angel say was their reward?
(GOLDEN TEXT.)

Lesson XII. *The Great Invitation.* Rev.
22: 8-21.—What did Jesus declare himself
to be? What is promised to the faithful
and obedient? What is the great invita-
tion? What is the final blessing of the
written word of God? (GOLDEN TEXT.)

WHERE we have a tent, God must
have an altar; where we have a house,
he must have a church in it.

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your pursuit.

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