

When he went home, much amazed at the effect and success of his Christmas plans, he saw Miss Duncan's horse fastened at the fence. She was just coming out of the house.

"Good morning, Jack," said she. "I have been waiting to see you. I brought you some books, and I wanted to wish you a merry Christmas myself. I am going to propose a plan to you, too, that I have just been talking to Mr. Patten. He told me yesterday that his nephew would like to come and live with him and help carry on the farm, and that he thinks he shall not need you both. My father came home last night from town, and I told him that I thought it would be a very good thing for you to come and live with us. Henry, who has lived with us so long, is not so young as he was once, and I think you could do a great many little things to help him. You will have a better school than you have here, and we will try and do as well for you as I am sure you will for us. I told my father that I should be responsible for you," said Miss Duncan with her pleasantest smile.

Jack did not know what to say; it seemed to him as if he were going home. He liked the Pattens, but he had always been lonely there, and he made up his mind that Miss Duncan should not be sorry that she had urged her father to let him come.

"And I mean to be somebody," said Jack to himself.

There never had been such a happy Christmas or such a merry one in Jack's life. The five boys who had found the newspaper bundles of walnuts that he had tied up and marked for them and taken in on the team the day before all came out together to him, and they skylarked together all the afternoon, for Mr. Patten himself had first gone to see old Becky Nash after hearing Jack's story, and then had carried her message to her niece. "It was a real Christian thing for that boy to do," said Mrs. Patten that night. "I'm sorry to part with him, I declare I am, but I know it'll be for his good."

Jack felt very sleepy and happy just then, in his bed in the attic north-east room, and he opened his eyes once or twice to see the great bright star watching him through the window. He wondered if it might not have been the same star that it told about in the Bible—the one that the shepherds saw over Bethlehem, and he hoped that he should see it as he fell asleep after he went to live at Miss Duncan's. He had never been so happy in his life as he had been that Christmas Day.

Fanny Crosby's Christmas Letter to the Children.

HAPPY children, Sunday scholars,
In our favored Christian land,
How I wish, for just a moment,
I could clasp each tiny hand;
But that pleasure is denied me,
For you live too far away,
So I send my yearly greeting
On this merry Christmas day.

I have prayed that heavenly blessings
On your heads, like dew, might fall;
O, I have a heart, dear children,
Large enough to hold you all,
And its wealth of love divided
Gives to each a goodly share;
I will call my heart a casket,
You the gems that sparkle there.

I am thinking of a story,
That you all remember well,
How a little helpless baby,
Jesus came on earth to dwell;

How an angel told the shepherds,
While a chorus in the sky,
Sang good will to man forever,
"Glory be to God on high!"

With these festive hours returning,
Let us lift our souls above;
Let us thank our kind Redeemer
For his rich and boundless love.
I am sure you all are grateful,
And I hope, my children dear,
You will have a merry Christmas,
And a cloudless, bright New Year.

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

FOURTH QUARTERLY REVIEW—DEC. 30.

LESSON XIII.

NOTE.—After a general view of the *Time* covered by the events of this Quarter, and tracing on the map the *Places* where they occurred, the main incidents and teachings of the Quarter may be profitably gathered around the following

SUBJECT:

THREE GREAT HISTORICAL CHARACTERS.

QUESTIONS.

1. SAMUEL.—Where was he born? What were his parents' name? To what tribe did he belong? Give an account of his early life. What lessons can you learn from it? Where did Samuel live? What offices did he fill? What were the leading events of his life? When and where did he die? What were the chief characteristics of Samuel? What are the lessons you can learn from his life?

2. SAUL.—Of what family and tribe was Saul? What was his personal appearance? Would this be a help to him as king? What were the circumstances of his early life? What opportunities did he have to make a great and good man? How did God fit him for his work? How was he made king? How long did he reign? What two great trials of his obedience? Why did he fail? What was his end? What was his character? What lessons do you learn from his life?

3. DAVID.—When and where was David born? The name of his parents? Where did he spend his youth? What accomplishments did he acquire? How was he first introduced at court? His first great deed? How he was prepared for it? Its effect on his future career? How did David spend his early manhood? How would this help him to be a better king? What lessons do you learn from his early life?

FIRST QUARTER—1884.

STUDIES IN THE ACTS AND EPISTLES.

A.D. 50.] LESSON I. [Jan. 6

THE CONFERENCE AT JERUSALEM.

Acts 15. 1-11. Commit to mem. vs. 8-11.

GOLDEN TEXT.

We believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.—Acts 15. 11.

OUTLINE.

1. A Difference, v. 1.
2. A Discussion, v. 2-6.
3. A Decision, v. 7-11.

TIME.—A.D. 50, while Claudius was emperor of Rome; Quadratus, prefect or Roman governor of Syria; Cumanus, procurator of Judea; Ananias, son of Nebedeus, high-priest of the Jews.

PLACES.—Antioch, in Syria, and Jerusalem, the capital of Judea.

EXPLANATIONS.—*Certain men*—These were narrow-minded Jews. *Came down*—From Jerusalem to Antioch. See the map. *The brethren*—The Gentiles, converted to Christ from the worship of idols. *Circumcised*—Made members of the Jewish Church. *Disension*—The apostles would not admit that Gentiles must become Jews, for God had not commanded it. *Go up to Jerusalem*—As this was the mother Church. *This question*—Whether Gentiles must become Jews in order to be Christians. *Brought on their way*—The Church sent them as messengers. *Phenice and Samaria*—Countries between Antioch and Jerusalem. *Received of the Church*—In a public meeting. *God had done with them*—The salvation of the

Gentiles. *Pharisees*—Men who were very strict in obeying Moses' law. *Disputing*—Not quarreling, but difference of views. *God made choice among us*—When Cornelius the centurion was converted. *Gentiles*—People who were not Jews. *Bars them witness*—Showing that their salvation was real and true. *Giving them the Holy Ghost*—With power to speak with new tongues. *No difference*—God saves all men in the same way. *Tempt ye God*—Ask more than God asks, and so set up higher authority than God's. *A yoke*—The burden of obedience to all the law of Moses. *Grace of the Lord*—God's mercy in sending salvation. *Saved*—By believing in Jesus.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. A DIFFERENCE, v. 1. What visitors became teachers? Who had sent them? Gal. 2. 12. What did they teach? What had Jesus taught about this? Mark 16. 16.

2. A DISCUSSION, v. 2-6. Who disputed this teaching? To what city were they sent? Who were to settle the dispute? Through what cities did they pass? What tidings made the brethren glad? Who received the delegates at Jerusalem? What report was made? Who were offended? What did they insist upon? Who were called together to settle the question?

3. A DECISION, v. 7-11. Who was the first speaker? To whom had he preached? What had followed their believing? Chap. 10. 44. From whom was this a gift? What was Peter's conclusion? How alone can any be saved? Acts 16. 31.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where in this lesson do we find—

1. That good men sometimes differ in regard to duty?
2. That the Holy Spirit is given to all believers?
3. That salvation is alike free to all?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.—(For the entire School.)

1. Of what two classes of people was the early Church composed? Jews and Gentiles. 2. What did some Jewish Christians demand? That the Gentiles should become Jews. 3. To whom was the subject submitted? To the Apostles and Church at Jerusalem. 4. By what did Peter declare the Gentiles were purified? By faith. 5. How are both Jew and Gentile saved? Through grace.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.

Freedom from ceremonial law.

Christmas Bells.

Oh! the merry Christmas bells,
How they ring out on the air;
And my heart with memory swells,
At the sound
Of the days of long ago,
And the loved ones, now no more,
Who with us by fireside's glow
Gathered round.

And the songs that then we sang,
And the tales that then we told,
Till our happy laughter rang
Through the halls.
And the sports that then we led,
And the friendships formed anew,
And the feasts that then were spread
In those walls.

Oh! those happy, happy days
Of the olden Christmas-time,
As I fondly backward gaze
Through my tears;
Rise again those scenes of bliss,
And I think I almost see
Faces gleaming through the mist
Of the years.

And I clasp the hands once more,
And I hear sweet voices call,
And I sing the songs of yore
Once again.
And I tread the halls along,
And I join in careless glee
With the merry-making throng,
Happy then.

Oh, dear Jesus, Saviour mine,
Draw me nearer, nearer Thee,
Make me wholly, wholly Thine,
Give me peace.
In the hour when solemn knells
Sound for me, and life is o'er,
Bring me where the Christmas bells
Never cease.

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