

NEW YEAR'S WISHES.

BY FRANCES R. HAVERGAL.

WHAT shall I wish thee?
Treasures of earth?
Songs in the springtime,
Pleasure and mirth?
Flowers in thy pathway,
Skies ever clear?
Would this insure thee
A happy New Year?

What shall I wish thee?
What can be found
Bringing thee sunshine
All the year round?
Where is the treasure,
Lasting and dear,
That shall insure thee
A happy New Year?

Faith that increaseth,
Walking in light;
Hope that aboundeth,
Happy and bright;
Love that is perfect,
Casting out fear;
These shall insure thee
A happy New Year.

Peace in the Saviour,
Rest at his feet,
Smile of his countenance,
Radiant and sweet,
Joy in his presence!
Christ ever near!
This will insure thee
A happy New Year!

THE NEW YEAR'S GIFT.

MRS. NELSON gave each of her children, Robbie and Lulu, a New Year's gift of a diary. The books were prettily bound, and on the cover of each book was the owner's name in beautiful gilt letters. The children were delighted, and turned over the spotless leaves with great satisfaction.

"I shall begin writing in mine this very day," said Lulu.

"I shall write in mine to-day and every day," said Robbie, gravely. "Mamma will not be pleased if we get tired of them after a while, and throw them to one side."

"I don't mean to," said Lulu, warmly. "I shall write all the nice things that happen to me all through the year, and how pleasant that will be to read in the future!"

"I think I shall write the things that are not pleasant, and the failures I make," said Robbie. "It will do me good to read them in the future."

"The idea!" cried Lulu. "I'll not write any but nice things in my pretty book!"

Mrs. Nelson smiled as she looked at her

case-loving little daughter, but she sighed also.

"Then be sure, dear child," she said, "that only 'nice things' are found in your life. There is no use in trying to shirk the truth, and where there is wrong and failure it is best to face it openly and fearlessly. I think Robbie is right in keeping a record of his failures, and I hope he will never be afraid to look at it, and to let others see it, too. Those who try to hide and cover up wrong-doing are the ones who suffer most. God wants us to be true to him, true to ourselves, and true to one another."

Let us hope that Robbie and Lulu will enter upon the New Year with hearts in love with truth, whether it be pleasant or unpleasant.

Do not ask another to do what you would not do under similar circumstances.



AFTER THE HOLIDAYS.

THE OLD YEAR AND THE NEW.

"MAMMA, what do folks mean by the old year and the new? How can a year be old or new?" asked Emily, on the last day of December.

"I will try to tell you, dearie. You know we say the new day after the night has passed. We divide the day into hours because it is convenient to be able to measure time. You do not know when one hour passes into another, but you do know when the darkness comes and when the light. We also know that after day and night have come just so many times the sun grows warmer, the ground softens, the grass springs up and the flowers bloom. After a certain number of days the fruits come; then the leaves turn gold and brown, and then fall off; and again the days grow cold, the snow falls, the ground is hard, the lakes are frozen.

We call these changes seasons—spring, summer, autumn, winter. We know that after these seasons have gone by, taking just three hundred and sixty-five days, the same changes will take place again in the same order. Spring will follow winter, summer will follow spring, autumn will follow summer, and winter will follow autumn. So it will go on as long as time will last. So we say at the end of the three hundred and sixty-five days that to-morrow will be a New Year, and the days that have gone are the old year.

"Now, suppose you had a copy-book of three hundred and sixty-five pages, and you wrote one page every day. When it was filled you would lay aside the old book and take up the new. Wouldn't you want to make your next book look better than the old: with fewer mistakes; fewer blots; more like the copy at the top of each page?"

"I understand you, mamma. You mean, don't I want to be a better girl, more like Jesus this coming year than last? Yes, I do, and I will not forget to ask Jesus every morning to help me."

THE STAR OF THE EAST.

THE night when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, a star of unusual brilliancy appeared in the distant East, and the wise men or heathen sages came, by its direction, to pay their homage to the new-born babe. This star led them to where the young child was, and, having found him, they presented gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. This star is truly typical of the Saviour himself. He

is the bright and morning star which has arisen to guide the Gentiles to the knowledge of salvation. It goes before men to lead them through the darkness of this world to the palace of the Great King. This star shines brighter than any other, and so Christ shines brighter in his life than all other men. He is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If men follow his light, they will find peace and safety.

THE NEW YEAR.

A HAPPY New Year to all the dear children!

A new year to be good and happy in.

A new year to do good and make others happy in!

This is what all who love the children want and ask for them.

Is it what the children want? And are they asking God for such a year as this?