

smaller, till now at last he coveted not one, but two or three, to appease his ever-increasing hunger? Yet he boldly dropped his penny into the bag belonging to the master, and gave the cake, his own dinner, into Johnny's hand. "Be ye kind to one another, tender-hearted," he could remember no more of last Sunday's text, but the few words which clung to him prompted the kindly deed, and ere long it brought its reward.

A stout, rosy woman, in a shop close by, saw it all; and loving all boys for the sake of one who was dead and gone to heaven, she came out to learn the "whys" and "wherefores" of the case. Then God put it into her mind by the sending of a warm glow into her heart, to employ Charlie as her own errand boy, paying him a weekly wage, besides giving him enough to eat. Was not the boy glad and thankful? Many a savoury morsel, too, he carried home of a night to the little ones at home, while his mistress kept the widow's needle going briskly all day long, so that real want soon fled away from their humble dwelling.

Dear children, study God's Word, and keep close to its teaching—the blessing *always* comes, sooner or later, and if you give Him your early love and obedience, life will be for you ONE LONG, LONG GLADNESS.

A NEW YEAR'S SONG.

BY EMILIE SEARCHFIELD.

Merrily, merrily bells are ringing,
Cheerily, cheerily hearts are singing;
Around the hearth there are faces bright,
As the firelight flashes its rosy light,
And they gaily speak without shadow or fear
Of the gladsome birth of "A Happy New Year."

Drearily, drearily bells are tolling,
Wearily, wearily hands are folding;
The light has fled from the dear one's eyes,
And the air seems rent by mourners' cries,
And the New Year seems old, tho' scarce a day
Has gone since the Old one passed away.

Silently, silently tears are falling,
Tenderly, tenderly Christ is calling;
For the New Year speaks of His childhood's pain,
The first sad link of a long, long chain;
Yet, tho' we are called in His steps to tread,
The path leads to Jesus, Who raised the dead.

OUR NOTE BOOK.

THE official inspectors of the London School Board state that there are among the London Board Schools twenty-three girls' schools, twenty-two infants' schools, and one boy's school, which are carried on successfully, absolutely without corporal punishment.

At a recent meeting at the Society of Arts, Professor Bell gave a description of his invention, the telephone. Conversation was carried on by the Professor, Lord Caithness, Mr. Le Neve Foster (President of the Society), and other gentlemen, with correspondents at an hotel in the neighbourhood, and with a gentleman in Gough-square—nearly a mile distant—by means of the underground postal telegraphic wires.

Dr. Stoughton, predecessor of Dr. Raleigh in the pastorate of the Congregational church at Kensington, and now principal of a Nonconformist College, by the invitation of Dean Stanley, recently delivered a lecture in the nave of Westminster Abbey. His subject was "Foreign Missions," and his audience was very large. The service was simple. Special hymns were sung, and the Dean pronounced the benediction.

In the American House of Representatives a resolution proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. H. M. Stanley, the African explorer, has been introduced.

Mr. Benjamin Gough, well known as a contributor to the poetical columns of several religious papers and magazines, has expired, after a short illness, at his residence, Woburn Sands, Newport Pagnel. He was in his seventy-second year, and had been for a number of years a lay preacher of considerable power.

Dean Stanley, in his sermon in Westminster Abbey, on the afternoon of St. Andrew's Day, said that statistics proved that the Church of England had contributed the largest amount towards the propagation of foreign missions, the Nonconformists contributing the next largest, while the subscriptions of the Roman Catholic Church amounted to only one-

fourth of what was collected by various Protestant societies in the United Kingdom alone.

Distributing the prizes gained by the pupils at the Royal Institute, Liverpool, during the past year, the Right Hon. G. J. Goschen pointed out the dangers of a too utilitarian education, and urged that the value of instruction should be estimated by other considerations in addition to its direct bearing on the immediate prospects of life.

University College (or North London) Hospital has received £2,000, under the will of the late Mr. George Moore, of Whitehall, Cumberland, and Bow Churchyard, London, to be applied in some way that will yield a permanent benefit to the institution.

Liverpool has contributed over £30,000 in aid of the sufferers by the recent Indian Famine.

Dr. Ziemann has returned from Bulgaria for a brief period of rest. He has been addressing large audiences in Manchester on behalf of the Bosnian refugees.

Mr. Henry Varley has laboured very acceptably in Australia during his preaching tour. It is stated by a colonial paper that the churches are being awakened, and that the movement is unprecedented in Victoria.

Special services were held in most of the metropolitan churches on St. Andrew's Day, which had been appointed as a day of intercession for the foreign missions of the Church of England.

Union Chapel, Islington (the Rev. Dr. Allon's), has been rebuilt, and its internal arrangements being complete, it has been opened. It is a handsome edifice, and will rank with the largest Nonconformist churches in London. The opening sermons were preached by Drs. R. W. Dale, A. Maclaren, J. Edmond, J. Parker, A. Raleigh, W. M. Punshon, Messrs. C. H. Spurgeon and Newman Hall, and Dr. Allon himself. After the first sermon (by R. W. Dale, D.D.), the collection realised £5,000. A tower remains yet to be added to the building.

A movement is in progress in Norfolk for the purpose of confederating the strong with the weak Congregational churches. Addressing a meeting in furtherance of this object at Norwich, Mr. Colman, M.P., expressed a wish that there should be a disappearance of the insignificant differences which divided some Nonconformist churches, so that instead of two or three chapels in a village, there might be one strong enough to counteract Ritualistic and Rationalistic teachings.

An order was recently issued by the Sultan, says *Church Bells*, for removing the old walls and fortifications of Jaffa (Joppa). In cutting a gate through a water battery at an angle of the sea wall, built by Vespasian, and directly in front of the reputed house of Simon the tanner, the men came on three oval-shaped tanners' vats, hewn out of the natural rock, and lined with Roman cement, down very near the sea, and similar in every respect to those in use eighteen centuries ago. This proves that the house, from which steps lead down to the vats, must have belonged to some tanner, and some probability is given to the tradition that this is the spot where the house of Simon stood.

The Presbyterian Bible and Colportage Society (Ireland) now employs fifty colporteurs, eight of whom can speak the Irish language. Since its commencement, in 1859, this society has sold 10,536,869 books, periodicals, and tracts, which realised a sum of £33,311. There has been also an extensive gratuitous distribution.

BUSY HANDS.

THE Editor of CHURCH AND HOME, in a recent article, says:—"We were reminded very forcibly of the many uses to which the needle may be put, by a short visit the other day to the extensive warehouses of Mr. M. Leader, of 9, New Inn-yard, Shoreditch, London. Mr. Leader (who is one of the largest Berlin wool and needlework importers in the kingdom) very kindly showed us over the various departments, and we were astonished at the great variety of his stock. In one department we saw beautifully-worked fire-screens, exact copies of famous pictures, in brilliant wools; banners, ottoman covers, toilet covers, slippers, pincushions, and many other articles, all in various stages of progress and in bewildering variety; in another part of the premises was the wool itself, ready for working; in another room, haberdashery of all kinds and stationery of every description. Mr. Leader told us he could fit out any number of fancy stationers' shops at a few hours' notice, at the same time not disdaining to supply a retail customer with a pound of wool."