



CHRISTMAS TOYS.

ERNEST and Grace are having such fun this afternoon! Santa Claus brought Ernest a splendid train of cars that will run along a little track on the floor for a long time when Ernest winds it up. Ernest says it is a very fast express train and stops at a great many stations. Gracie has seated "Margaret Jane," the doll Santa Claus gave, on the stool so that she may see the train pass by. Pussy sits enjoying the fun and listening to the names of the stations that Ernest or Grace calls out whenever the train stops. The children are trying to remember the names of all the towns and cities they hear so that they may be able to have new names to call out. Ernest tries to call out the names like a brakeman he heard on the train one day and he has just roared out "Halifax" next station, "All change cars." Do you know where Halifax is?

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, the edges were gilt, and on the cover of each book was the owners 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 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 of 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 and truth, whether it be pleasant or unpleasant.

HOW TIM WAS TAKEN CARE OF.

TIM'S father was a drunkard, and his mother was poor and pale and sad. How she did love her little boy! He was all she had, and she used to stroke his soft hair, and kiss his smooth forehead, and wonder what would become of him when she was gone. For Tim's mamma knew she had not long to live. Hard labour and sorrow and poverty had nearly done their work, and her step grew more feeble, while her eyes seemed to look farther and farther into the heavens each day.

But after all the poor drunken husband went first. While under the influence of liquor he slipped and fell from a high scaffolding, and never spoke again. A few weeks more and the heart-broken mother closed her eyes upon this earth.

"God take care of my boy," she said. "Don't be afraid. He says he will take care of the boy who has no father or mother."

Tim never forgot these words. He was left alone in the world. Only his faithful dog remained to him. A kind neighbour gave him lodging, and he earned the little bread he ate by selling papers.

After a few months a new trouble came. The kind women who had done what she could for the homeless boy died. Now Tim was desolate, indeed. His last friend was gone.

"What'll we do, old fellow?" said Tim to Rollo. "Mother said, 'Don't be afraid, God won't forget you,' and I don't believe he will."

No, God didn't forget. When Tim had no place to sleep but the street, and no pillow but his good Rollo, God sent a kind man along that way, who woke the pair, and took them to his own pleasant home until he could find a place for them.

And what do you think? Why never found another place for them! He never even looked for one! He looked around his own beautiful home and the of his boy Charley who had gone to with the angels, and he said, "Tim shall stay and be my boy, if you will." "Yes, sir," said Tim. "Mother said she would take care of me."

NEW YEAR'S GREETING.

WE'VE been companions in the past,
Now I come to you again;
You've waited and you've watched for me,
And never watched in vain;
Let us take each other's hands for once,
And have a word to say,
As we make a start together,
On this joyful New Year's day.

I have pictures, I have stories,
For the tiny ones who need;
I have words of holy teaching,
If only you will read.
I have stories of love abounding,
Old love, yet fresh and new,
Folding up within my pages,
This New Year's morn, for you.

I see your happy faces,
As you gather round the fire,
I hear your ringing voices,
As your greeting rises higher;
I watch your friends outpouring
Nice presents bought for you;
Dear children, I am wishing
A New Year's blessing, too.

Jesus, your Friend, to guide you,
Through all the future dim,
The past forgiven, the future safe,
Since both are safe with him.
If these be yours, you must be blest,
With sunshine on your way,
And happiest of all happy times
Shall be this New Year's day.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

To the many thousand of its readers HAPPY DAYS heartily wishes a happy New Year. The way to be happy, however to be good. The reason why there is so much misery in the world is because there is so much sin. We would be glad to know that all our young readers have left their sins behind them with the old year. A good time now to turn over a new leaf if we have not done so before, and begin to live a new and better life.

But then we must remember that only God can save us from sin. He alone has the power to forgive sin; and nothing but His grace can so change our hearts as to enable us to hate sin. If we would leave our sins behind us with the years that are past, we must come to Him confessing our sins, asking forgiveness from Him. If we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Then with sins forgiven and hearts renewed, we may expect to have a new year.