

THE CHRISTMAS KISS.

CLOSE to the hearth hung two little socks
Of two chubby boys, with curly brown
locks,

Who had just crept into their beds.
They rolled, and tossed, and prattled like
boys,

Of tops, and sleds, and childish toys,
And then they covered their heads.

One hastened on to the City of Nod,
Where Father Time, with his magical rod,
Sits on his kingly throne.

The other one waited, with wide-open eyes,
Then slipped out of bed, in glad surprise,
To find he was all alone.

Two little bare feet marched over the floor,
And their owner glanced at the open door,
Then a tiny sock pinned to the wall.

"This one's for mamma"—the clock struck
eleven—

"And give her this kiss; you'll find her in
heaven,

No matter how late you call."

If old St. Peter would tell all he knew
He would say that an angel his gates passed
through,

And left a heaven of bliss,
To go to that room, to that chubby-faced
child,

And look in his eyes so tender and mild,
As she took for herself that kiss!

—James Foster Coates.

GOD KNOWS BEST.

It was raining hard, and little Charlie
was looking out of the window and feel-
ing very badly about it.

"I hate the rain," Charlie said. "It's
always around when I want to play. I
wish it would go away and never come
back again.

Just then a dear little bird on a tree
began to sing merrily.

"Goodness sake!" said Charlie, "you'd
better get back into your nest, and pull
the bed-clothes over you. How can you
sing when it rains so hard?"

"I sing," said the bird, "to see the rain
that has come down to make the grass
grow, and the flowers come out, and the
little brooks run. The dear, kind rain."

"I never thought of that," said Charlie.
"I expect it is best." God knows what is
best.

LOOKING UP.

It would be well for all liars like Ananias
and Gehazi to remember a remark once
made by a little boy to his father who was
meditating a theft of potatoes out of a field.

The father looked east, west, north and
south, and seeing no one, began to pull up
the roots.

"Father," said the lad, "there is one
way you forgot to look!"

"Where?" asked the alarmed man.

"Up, father."

LESSON NOTES.

B.C. 980.] LESSON XI. [Dec. 14.

VANITY OF WORLDLY PLEASURE.

Ecl. 2. 1-13. Commit to memory verses 10, 11.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Wisdom excelleth folly, as far as light
excelleth darkness. Ecl. 2. 13.

OUTLINE.

1. A Wise Man's Folly, v. 1-10.
2. A Wise Man's Wisdom, v. 11-13.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

What is the natural desire of the heart?
To be happy.

What mistake do we often make? That
happiness is found in worldly pleasure.

What only can make us happy? The
love of God in the heart.

What is the end of all earthly pleasures?
Vanity.

What did Solomon seek? To learn what
would bring happiness.

What did he do? He sought every kind
of pleasure.

What did he gather together? Silver
and gold and the treasures of kings.

With what did he amuse himself? With
songs and music.

What did he possess above all other men?
Riches, power, honour, and worldly know-
ledge.

What does he say of these things? "All
is vanity and vexation of spirit."

How had he proved this? By his own
experience.

To what is wisdom compared? To light.
What is the end of worldly pleasures?
Darkness.

Where is happiness alone found? In
loving and serving God.

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

Only God can give you true happiness and
wisdom.

Ask him to give you a pure heart.

Ask him to help you to be loving and
unselfish.

Ask him to keep you from sin, and lead
you in the right way.

Ask him for strength to do his holy
will.

"Seek the things that are above, where
Christ is, seated on the right hand of God."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The folly of a
godless life.

B.C. 980.] LESSON XII. [Dec. 21.

THE CREATOR REMEMBERED.

Ecl. 12. 1-14. Commit to memory verses 13, 14.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Remember, now thy Creator in the days
of thy youth. Ecl. 12. 1.

OUTLINE.

1. Youth, v. 1.
2. Age, v. 2-7.
3. Life, v. 8-13.
4. Judgment, v. 14.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

What do we often forget? That God
made us.

To whom, then, do we belong? To God,
our Creator.

When should we remember him? In
the days of our youth.

What is it to "remember" God? To
obey him.

What can we give him in our youth?
The best of our love and service.

What will come to every one? Death.
What shall we need then? To know
God.

What shall we have in him? Peace and
safety.

To what will our bodies return? To
dust.

Where will the spirit go? To God who
gave it.

Who is meant by the preacher? Solo-
mon.

What did Solomon seek to do? To teach
the truth.

What had he learned? That wisdom is
of God.

What is the end of life? To fear God
and keep his commandments.

Who was the perfect man who kept God's
commandments? Christ Jesus.

What will be brought into judgment?
Every thing, both good and evil.

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

Give yourself to Jesus now, while you can
serve him with the strength of your
youth.

He is calling you to-day.

He is longing for your love.

Choose the happiness of his way, and
not the evil of the world's way.

He will give you a happy life and peace-
ful death.

"My Father, thou art the guide of my
youth."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The final judg-
ment.