

Christmas Day.

God bless the boys and girls to-day,
With mercy, grace and peace:
Dear Saviour, lead them on their way,
And make their joys increase.

Let Christmas mercies from above
Fill all their homes with joy,
And with thy tender, precious love,
Bless every girl and boy.

JAMES' CHRISTMAS EVE.

There was good coasting on Upton's hill the night before Christmas. James and Frank English, with their caps pulled over their ears and their good warm mittens on, hurried home from school to get their sleds, and ran away to the hill.

"There's a whole lot of townies," said James as he came in sight of the hill, "and Mike Maloney is among them. If he runs into me again I'll make it hot for him."

"Mike doesn't mean bad," said Frank, "he's wild and the coasting just makes him crazy."

"Mean or not, he'd better keep clear of me," said James.

The brothers were soon enjoying the fun. The second time down Mike was behind James.

"Will ye look out there!" cried Mike.

"You'd better look out yourself," said James, but Mike was too near him and with a bump knocked him off his sled. In a moment James was after him and gave him a sharp blow. He then gave Mike's sled a kick and off went the runner. Mike began to kick at James, but Frank came running up and picked up Mike's sled. Mike was now crying and Frank tried to wipe his tears. "Take a turn on mine," said he, but Mike would not be consoled but went off with his broken sled.

"Oh, how cold his hands were!" said Frank to James. "I felt like giving him my mittens; and he'll probably get scolded for breaking his sled."

"I don't care," said James, but he did not enjoy the coasting much.

As the boys went home they heard singing in the stone church, where the Christmas Anthem was being practised. They just stepped into the vestibule to listen. "Peace on earth, peace, peace," it was all the singers seemed to say.

"Oh, come on," said James; but at home it was the same. Mamma and Effie were singing, "Peace on earth, Peace on earth."

James pretended to look at some pictures, but the true Christmas spirit was making him ashamed of what he had done. Presently he went up to Frank.

"Come on," said he. "I've got fifty cents, and there's sleds at Gordon's for that, and we'll get one for Mike."

"Oh, I'll give half," said Frank, "and won't we have a jolly Christmas!"

There is no happy Christmas for those who are angry with others. James found this out, for when he left the new sled with Mrs. Maloney, saying, "This is for Mike; I broke his sled," he began to feel light-hearted. He was no longer angry. He could understand the angel song. "Peace, good will to men."

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

FOURTH QUARTERLY REVIEW.

DECEMBER 27.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his com-

mandments: for this is the whole duty of man.—Eccles. 12, 13.

THE LESSONS OF THE QUARTER

TITLES AND GOLDEN TEXTS

1. S. A. K.—Keep the charge—
2. S. W. C.—The fear of the—
3. S. W. and W.—Them that honour—
4. T. P. of S.—My son, if—
5. B. the T.—Except the Lord—
6. T. T. D.—The Lord is in—
7. G. B. upon S.—The blessing of—
8. R. of O.—In all thy—
9. T. F. of S.—Behold, a greater—
10. S. S.—Let him that—
11. C. A. I.—For the drunkard—
12. T. B. of C.—And the angel—

QUESTIONS.

1. What promise had David made about his successor? Where was Solomon made king? Who anointed him?
2. Where did the Lord appear to Solo-

10. What led Solomon to sin? Which commandment did he break? What did his sin lead to?

11. Why should we look to the end? What three evils ruin character? What must we pay for the blessings of temperance? Who are the happiest parents?

12. From where did the wise men come? Why was Herod troubled? Who had prophesied about Bethlehem? What did the wise men do when they found Jesus? Why did they not return to Herod?

An austere looking lady walked into a furrier's recently, and said to the yellow-headed clerk:

"I would like to get a muff."

"What fur?" demanded the young clerk.

"To keep my hands warm, you slumping idiot," exclaimed the young lady.



THE BIRDS' CHRISTMAS TREE.

mon? What offer was made him? What did he choose? What else was promised him?

3. Tell of Solomon's riches, of his wisdom, of his fame.

4. Why was the Book of Proverbs written? Is fear useful? Whose advice should we heed? What does sin lead to?

5. Why was David not permitted to build the temple? Who sent a message to Solomon? What bargain did they make?

6. How had God shown his presence with the Hebrew fathers? What did Solomon value more than wealth? Should our zeal be steady?

7. When did the Lord appear to Solomon the second time? How did God testify his acceptance of the temple? What warning did he give Solomon?

8. Does religion tend to secure long life? Why should we trust in God? On what condition will he guide us? How are we to honour God? Of what is correction a proof?

9. How far did the Queen of Sheba come? What convinced her of Solomon's greatness? What did she say about the report she had heard? What presents did she make?

The Christmas Sheaf.

BY PHOEBE CARY.

"Now, good wife, bring your precious hoard,"

The Norland farmer cried,

"And heap the hearth, and heap the board

For the blessed Christmas-tide.

"And bid the children fetch," he said,

"The last ripe sheaf of wheat,

And set it on the roof o'erhead,

That the birds may come and eat.

"And this we do for his dear sake,

The Master, kind and good,

Who of the loaves he blest and brake,

Fed all the multitude."

And all the hours glide swift away.

With loving, hopeful words,

Till the Christmas sheaf, at break of day,

Is alive with happy birds.

Note.—In Norway the last sheaf from the harvest-field is not threshed, but it is reserved till Christmas eve, when it is set up on the roof as a feast for the hungry birds.

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