

New Year's Fancies.

Bright New Year, what bringest thou?
Glad New Year, what singest thou?
Gifts of health and wealth and life,
Songs with love and pleasure rife—
Gifts like these I'd have thee bring me,
Songs like these I'd have thee sing me,
Glad New Year, what bringest thou?

Don't thou come with lengthening days
In thy train, and pleasant ways
All untrodden for my feet,
Filled with flowers fine and sweet?
As each step of mine advances,
Shall I find my idle fancies
All fulfilled with glad amaze?

Ah! Not so; the old paths lie
Still before me steep and high;
Still the snow-storms and the sleet
Thicken round my tolling feet;
Yet beyond this dreary whiteness
I can see the azure brightness
Of the spring-time in the sky.

Glad New Year, whatever thou
Bringest to me, waiting now—
Chill of winter, breeze of spring,
Warmth of Summer—everything
I accept, nor ask a reason,
Pledging, spite of bitter season,
Sweet New Year my solemn vow.

NEW YEAR'S WINE.

It is unfortunate that a custom so pleasing should have associated with it suggestions of evil; but, though sad, it is true that New Year's Day is a time of temptation. There are young men and old men, whose smothered appetite is roused by the smell of liquor, and whose good resolutions one taste of wine is as dangerous as a candle in a powder magazine. Ladies who, in arranging their tables, have supplied wine or stronger drink, can do real good by correcting their bills of fare.

The importance of this advice may be illustrated by an incident which occurred three years ago. A family of this city served wine to their guests, but when the two sons of the family came, the bottles were slipped to one side. The boys started on their round, with the sisterly admonition, "Now, you won't take anything!" To a caller who had just refused pressing offers of sparkling liquor from this same sister, the admonition had a strange sound, and he said, "Do you so much fear the effect of a little wine on your brothers?" "No; but when they begin, they don't know where to stop." The door opened, and half a dozen persons—two being mere boys—came in. They all took wine; and the aforementioned caller had not even time to suggest that their sisters might be anxious lest they would not know where to stop. The caller saw them later in the day, and they were unmistakably tight. He saw, also, the two boys whose sister's caution he had heard, and they too were drunk. He has seen them since in the same condition, and knows that one of the two is the slave of strong drink, and physically and morally a wreck.

We do not know that New Year's wine is responsible for this ruin, or that it led to the ruin of the boys to whom his sister served it, but we are sure that many a young man dates his movement on the downward grade from liquor served on New Year's Day. We are glad to believe that the custom of thus tempting men is on the decline, and equally glad if any word-blows we give will help it out of good society.—Herald and Presbyter.

NOW IS YOUR TIME.

BY THE REV. JAMES COOKE SEYMOUR.

It is good to be a Christian—it is better to be a Christian early—early in life. It is best to be a Christian all the time. "Possession is nine points of the law." Let Christ have those nine points of advantage. That is, give him your heart while you are young—very young. Give God the first chance to make a man of you. Early piety preempts the soul for

God and heaven. God will fill you with himself—so full that evil will find it hard to get a lodging place.

"Habit becomes second nature." No doubt of it. And it is just as true of good habits as of bad. The iron chains of bad habits need be no stronger than the golden chains of good ones.

We can habituate ourselves to all sorts of good things just as well as to all sorts of evil things. Every good life has a history and every bad one, too. It is not pleasant reading to turn over the leaves of a Godless life, especially when the book is one's own life has written.

Evil deeds are not so easily forgotten. They have an unpleasant way of reminding us of their existence. They resurrect themselves unbidden from the long dead past. Their memory is a cumulative sorrow, that does not get less, but greater as the years roll by.

Good deeds have a similar faculty. They come back to us again in vivid reality but only to bless. They grow more beautiful and more inspiring and comforting each time they reappear. They are angel visits often sent to cheer us in darkness and weakness and trouble.

"The memory of the just is blessed." That is true in life as in death. It is true as others review our good lives, and just as true as we review our own.

The years of youth are not golden—they are worth far more than gold. Each year, each month, each day, is a pearl, a gem of priceless value. Don't throw away all this untold wealth of opportunity in sin.

little town near the Jordan is to be carefully distinguished from the Bethany of the Mount of Olives, where Lazarus and Mary and Martha lived.

HOME READINGS.

- M. Christ's first disciples.—John 1. 35-42.
- Tu. Christ's first disciples.—John 1. 43-51.
- V. The second call.—Matt. 4. 18-25.
- Th. True discipleship.—Luke 9. 18-26.
- F. Teaching the disciples.—Matt. 5. 13-20.
- S. Friends of Jesus.—John 15. 12-21.
- Su. Reward.—Matt. 19. 23-30.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. Looking upon Jesus, v. 35, 36.
What three persons saw Jesus approaching?
What did John say to his disciples? Golden Text.
Why did he call Jesus a "lamb"?
What had he said the day before? Verse 29.
2. Following Jesus, v. 37-40.
Who at once followed Jesus?
What question did Jesus ask?
What was their answer?
What did Jesus bid them do?
How long did the disciples stay?
Who were these two disciples?
Who are now commanded to follow Jesus?
3. Leading to Jesus, v. 41-46.
Whom did Andrew lead to Jesus?
Whom did he say he had found?
What did Jesus say about Peter's name?
Whom did Jesus summon the next day?
Where was Phillip's home?

another follower. There was Nathanael. He said to him, "We have found the One Moses said was coming." When Nathanael wondered how One so good could come from that poor little town of Nazareth, Phillip only said, "Come and see." That was the way to find out.

Oh, if people would only come and see how it is! Oh, if they would only spend a day with Jesus! Wouldn't they learn enough of him to want to follow him always? Well, we have this day. Shall we spend it learning of Jesus? That is what we are here for in his house.

Song for the New Year.

BY ELIZA COOK.

Old Time has turned another page
Of eternity and truth;
He reads with a warning voice to age,
And whispers a lesson to youth.

A year has fled o'er heart and head
Since last the yule log burned,
And we have a task to closely ask—
What the bosom and brain have learned.

O let us hope that our sands have run
With wisdom's precious grains!
O may we find that our hands have done
Some work of glorious pains!

We may have seen some loved one pass
To the land of hallowed rest;
We may miss the glow of an honest brow
And the warmth of a friendly breast.

But if we nursed them while on earth
With hearts all true and kind,
Will their spirits blame the sinless mirth
Of those true hearts left behind;

No, no! It were not well nor wise
To mourn with endless pain;
There's a better world beyond the skies
Where the good shall meet again.

Have our days rolled on serenely free
From sorrow's dim alloy?
Do we still possess the gifts that bless
And fill our souls with joy?

Are the creatures dear still clinging near?
Do we hear loved voices come?
Do we gaze on eyes whose glances shed
A halo round our home?

O, if we do, let thanks be poured
To him who hath spared and given,
And forgot not o'er the festive board
The mercies sent from heaven!

Then a welcome and cheer to the merry
New Year,
While the holly gleams above us!
With a pardon for the foes who hate,
And a prayer for those who love us.

Don't take up everything. The Lord seldom gives one great, outside mission; he never gives half a dozen at a time.—Mrs. A. D. T. Whitney.



THE DYING YEAR.

Full knee-deep lies the winter snow,
And the winter winds are wearily
sighing;
Toll ye the church bell sad and slow,
And tread softly and speak low,
For the Old Year lies a-dying.

Give Christ a cordial welcome to your heart this hour. Let sin go. It will never do you any good. Take Christ and a holy life and a heavenly home as your portion. Now is your time. Say "I will," and God will say "I will," too. And the day of your spiritual rativity has come.

Paisley, Ont.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL BY JOHN.

LESSON II.—JANUARY 8.

CHRIST'S FIRST DISCIPLES.

John 1. 35-46. Memory verses, 35-37.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Behold the Lamb of God.—John 1. 36.

OUTLINE.

1. Looking upon Jesus, v. 35, 36.
 2. Following Jesus, v. 37-40
 3. Leading to Jesus, v. 41-46.
- Time.—A.D. 27. Probably on Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath.
Place.—Bethabara, or Bethany (according to the Revised Version), but this

Whom did Phillip seek out?
What did he say to Nathanael?
What question did Nathanael ask?
What was Phillip's answer?
What did Jesus say of Nathanael's character?
What was Nathanael's question of surprise?

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

- Where in this lesson are we taught—
1. Whom we should seek?
 2. When we should seek Jesus?
 3. That we should lead others to Jesus?

COME AND SEE.

Jesus said to Phillip, "Follow me." Phillip obeyed, and soon wanted to bring



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