

NEW YEAR'S DAY.

Now, pussy, I've something to tell you,
You know it is New Year's Day,
The big folks are down in the parlour,
And mamma is just gone away.

We are all alone in the nursery,
And I want to talk to you, dear,
So you must come and sit by me
And mak believe you hear.

You see there's a new year coming,
It only begins to-day;
Do you know I often was naughty
In the year that is gone away?

You know I've some bad habits,
I'll just mention one or two;
But, really, there is quite a number
Of naughty things that I do.

You see I don't learn my lessons,
And oh! I do hate them so;
I doubt if I know any more to-day
Than I did a year ago.

And, Pussy, when people scold me,
I'm always so sulky then;
If they would tell me gently
I never would do it again.

O Pussy! I know I am naughty,
And it often makes me cry;
I think it would count for something
If th y knew how hard I try.

But I'll try again in the New Year,
And oh! I shall be so glad
If I only can be a good little girl
And never do anything bad.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER, 1900.
STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF JESUS.

LESSON I [Jan. 7.]

THE BIRTH OF JESUS.

Luke 2. 1-16. Memory verses, 8-11.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.—Matt. 1. 21.

CAN YOU TELL?

Where was Jesus born? Luke 2. 4. Who was the Roman Emperor at this time? Luke 2. 1. What did he say should be done? Why? He wanted to know how many were in his empire. Where must each Jew be enrolled? In the place to which his tribe belonged. Where did Joseph and Mary go? Why? Luke 2. 4. Why was Jesus born in a stable? Who soon heard the good news? Who told the story to the shepherds? Why was this honour shown them? They longed for his coming. What was the angels' song.

DAILY STEPS.

- Mon. Read the lesson verses from your Bible. Luke 2. 1-16.
- Tues. Find a prophecy fulfilled in Christ. Mi. 5. 2.
- Wed. Learn what Jesus came to do. Golden Text.
- Thur. Why was Bethlehem called David's city. 1 Sam. 17. 12, 15.
- Fri. What was the song the angels sang. Luke 2. 14.
- Sat. Find how you may get and keep heavenly peace. Isa. 26. 3.
- Sun. Read Hymn 756 in Hymnal.

LESSON II. [Jan. 14.]

THE CHILD JESUS VISITS JERUSALEM.

Luke 2. 41-52. Memory verses, 49-52.

GOLDEN TEXT.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.—Luke. 2. 52.



THE BIRTH OF CHRIST.

CAN YOU TELL?

What do we know of the childhood of Jesus? Luke 2. 40. Where did he go when he was twelve years old? What was a Jewish boy called at this age? "A son of the law." What did this mean? That he was old enough to think for himself, and to attend the religious feasts. What was the sign of his sonship? What are these little boxes called? Phylacteries. What did the people do during the feast? They went ~~de~~ to the temple. Do you think Jesus loved to be there? What could he see there? The priests, the altars, the sacrifices, the great curtains that hid the Holy Place, and the old rabbis. What happened after the company started for home? How long did Mary and Joseph search for Jesus? Why did he say he stayed behind? Where did he get such wisdom and knowledge? What

is there to help you in the story of the boy Jesus?

DAILY STEPS.

- Mon. Find what Simeon said about the child Jesus. Luke 2. 28-32.
- Tues. Learn who besides prophesied about Jesus. Luke 2. 36-37.
- Wed. Read the lesson verses very carefully. Luke 2. 41, 52.
- Thur. Find why the Passover feast was kept. Exod. 12. 14-18.
- Fri. Find a lesson for you in the lesson verses. Luke 2. 51.
- Sat. Trace the journey from Nazareth to Jerusalem on the map.
- Sun. Think—what did Jesus mean by his "Father's business"?

IN A TIGHT PLACE.

A number of boys were playing "hide and seek" on the streets of a city. A large joint of sewer-pipe lay above ground. One of the little urchins was looking for a hiding-place. He came up to the pipe, looked in, and thought a moment. It was dark and deep. "What a splendid place to hide!" he whispered to himself. He tried to drag himself in out of sight. The casement was small, but onward he went. The middle was reached. There he lay, still as death. The comrades were searching for Johnnie, but the boy could not be found. He thought it time to bestir himself, but in neither direction could he move. He began to yell most lustily. His companions heard him, but none of

them could go in for him. Then they brought a rope, and threw it in. He grasped it, they pulled, and soon Johnnie was once more enjoying freedom. He had learned a lesson. Let all the boys learn it. Keep out of tight places. And no place is so tight as a bad habit. Chewing tobacco, drinking beer, reading bad novels, using bad words—get encased in any of these, and you cannot get out, nor can your best friend pull you out. Christ alone can help you.

Kind hearts are the gardens,
Kind thoughts are the roots,
Kind words are the blossoms,
Kind deeds are the fruits;
Love is the sweet sunshine
That warms into life;
For only in darkness
Grow hatred and strife.