

### A GOOD NEW YEAR.

Good-bye old year! You have been a good year to us, better than any of us have been to you. You gave us good things that some of us abused. You gave us our life, health, opportunities, that we might grow better ourselves and help others to be better and happier; and we have not done as much of that good work as we might have done.

Good-bye old year, but not forever. We must meet you again to give an account of the way we have used your gifts.

Welcome, New Year! You will be a good year, too; for all God's gifts are good.

Last year we did not use as we might have done, but God is sparing us and giving us another, to see if we will do better with it. How kind and patient He is!

Welcome, New Year! We will try and prove by our lives that His patience has not been in vain. We will try with His help to use each passing year so that when years are ended, we may hear a Blessed voice saying to us, "Well done, good and faithful, enter into the joy of your Lord."

### STONE BY STONE.

Tom and Robert were walking through the woods. They came to a stream of water; both stopped, deliberating what was best to be done.

"I am going to leap it," said Tom.

"I am going to make my way over, stone by stone," said the more prudent Robert.

Tom leaped, and, missing his footing, fell into the stream, whilst Robert, working his way carefully from one stone to another, landed safe and dry on the other side.

Boys, learn the lesson while yet young; the shortest way often appears the longest. Do not try to leap across the stream of difficulties that separates you from the shores of success. Perseverance, diligence, and determination are all stones cast across the stream of life. A leap will bring you down among them, wounded and bruised. But, conquer them, stone by stone, and ultimately you will reach the other shore—the coveted land of success. Remember, do not leap; work your way across the stream, stone by stone.

### International S. S. Lessons.

#### TWENTY-FOUR PICTURES.

The lessons for the next six months are twenty-four pictures. And the young people are asked to fill in between the pictures by studying the passages between the lessons, that thus they may get a very complete view of the life of Christ.

The first picture is

#### THE FORERUNNER OF CHRIST,

5th January.

Les. Luke 1: 5-17.

Gol. Text, Luke 1-76.

Mem. vs. 15-16.

Catechism, Q. 39, 40.

Study the whole first chapter of Luke:

#### QUESTIONS.

Who was now King of Judea?

What priest is mentioned?

How many sets or courses of priests were there? 24.

To which course did this one belong?

What was his wife's name?

What was the character of this couple?

What was this priest doing at the temple?

What is meant by "the order of his course?"

What were the people doing?

Who appeared to the priest?

What effect did it have upon the priest?

What did the Angel say?

What was their son to be called?

What kind of a man was he to be?

In what particular can we follow him now?

What was he to do to the children of Israel?

What Old Test. prophet was he to be like?

What did Zacharias do when he came out of the temple?

When was his speech restored? Verse 64.

What the first use he made of his restored speech?

What song did he sing? Vs. 67-70.

Where was the boy's youth chiefly spent?

What is meant by "his shewing unto Israel?"

#### LESSONS.

1. Each one may be a forerunner of Christ and be a means of introducing Christ to others. Better still, we may take Him with us wherever we go.

2. John did not sow any wild oats for after-reaping, and no boy who does so is as good a man as he might have been.

3. John was a teetotaler. Every boy must be who would make the best of himself.

4. John had a good father and mother, and they never were pained by him nor ashamed of him. Are all the young readers of the RECORD doing the same?