

## THE OLD YEARS BLESSING.

AM tiding from you,  
But one draweth near,  
Called the Angel guardian  
Of the coming year.

If my gifts and graces  
Coldly you forget,  
Let the New Year's angel  
Bless and crown them yet

For we work together:  
He and I are one;  
Let him end and perfect  
All I have undone.

I brought good desires,  
Though as yet but seeds  
Let the New Year make them  
Blossom into deeds.

If I gave you sickness,  
If I brought you care,  
Let him make one Patience  
And the other Prayer.

Where I brought you sorrow,  
Through his care, at length,  
It may rise triumphant  
Into future strength.

If I broke your idols,  
Showed you they were dust,  
Let him turn the knowledge  
Into heavenly trust.

If I brought temptation,  
Let sin die away  
Into boundless pity  
For all hearts that stray.

If your list of errors,  
Dark and long appears,  
Let this new-born monarch  
Melt them into tears.

May you hold this angel  
Dearer than the last—  
So I bless his future,  
While he crowns my past.  
*Adelaide Proctor.*

## LESSON NOTES.

## FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES.

A. D. 58.] LESSON I. [Jan. 4.

PAUL AT TROAS.

Acts 20. 2-16. Commit to memory vs. 9-12.

## GOLDEN TEXT.

And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them. Acts 20. 7.

## OUTLINE.

1. The Christian Company, v. 2-6.
2. The Christian Service, v. 7-12.
3. The Christian Pilgrimage, v. 13-16.

TIME.—The close of A. D. 57; Paul at Troas in the spring of 58.

PLACES.—Macedonia and Greece, in Europe, Troas and Assos, in Asia Minor, and the islands of Lesbos, (at its capital Mytilene,) Chios, and Samos; Trogyllum and Miletus, on the coast of Asia Minor.

EXPLANATIONS.—*Utere*—Southern Greece, as distinguished from Macedonia. *Unleavened bread*—The passover. *Many lights*—Therefore the fall of the young man could at once be perceived. *Dead*—Not apparently so. When the young man was restored he was brought back to life, and not simply to consciousness and so a miracle was performed. *Life is in him*—After Paul's miraculous embrace it was true that the young man was living. *Saved by Ephesus*—In which was the chief church of Asia, and if Paul had landed here he would have had to tarry too long.

## TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where in this lesson are we taught—  
1. Diligence in duty?  
2. Power of a man of God?  
3. Regard for divinely appointed service?

## THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. Where had Paul been before coming into Greece? At Ephesus. 2. How long did Paul and his companions abide at Troas? Seven days. 3. What did Paul do at Troas? He preached unto the disciples. 4. What did Paul say of the young man who fell from the loft? "His life is in him." 5. Where

was Paul's next stopping place on his way to Jerusalem? At Miletus.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The Lord's day.

## CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

137. What is regeneration or the new birth? It is the work of God in the soul, by the Holy Spirit, which begins the new life in Christ Jesus. Matthew xii. 33; 2 Corinthians v. 17; John iii. 3; 2 Peter i. 4; 1 John v. 11.

[John iii. 6, vi. 53; Romans vi. 4-7, viii. 2; Ephesians ii. 10; James i. 18.]

138. What follows from our regeneration or being born again?

Our new life being begun, we receive power to grow in grace and in the knowledge of Christ, and to live in the exercise of inward and outward holiness. 1 Peter ii. 2.

[John xv. 16, xvii. 3; Romans viii. 29, 2 Corinthians iii. 18; Colossians i. 9, 10; 2 Peter iii. 18.]

139. What is sanctification?

It is the work of grace which purifies the soul from the defilement of sin, and consecrates it to God.

A. D. 58.] LESSON II. [Jan. 11.

PAUL AT MILETUS.

Acts 20. 17-27. Commit to memory vs. 18-21.

## GOLDEN TEXT.

Repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. Acts 20. 21.

## OUTLINE.

1. An Apostle's Record, v. 17-21.
2. An Apostle's Resolve, v. 22-27.

TIME.—A. D. 58, immediately following the last lesson.

PLACE.—Miletus, a sea-port in the province of Asia, Asia Minor.

EXPLANATIONS.—*Repentance . . . faith*—This is the order of all true conversion. First the renunciation of all sin, and the turning from Satan to God. *Bound in spirit*—That is "compelled and urged in my spirit." *My life dear*—"Even my life is not reckoned to me valuable for myself, that is, for my own personal interest." *Blood of all*—Paul declares himself guiltless, if any, through unbelief, suffer the second death.

## TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where in this lesson are we taught—

1. Faithful service?
2. Willing obedience?
3. Fearless trust?

## THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. Whom did Paul summon from Ephesus? The elders of the Church. 2. What was the burden of Paul's preaching? Repentance and faith. 3. What awaited Paul in every city? Bonds and afflictions. 4. What did Paul say concerning this fact? "None of these things move me." 5. What had Paul not shunned to declare? The counsel of God.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The ministry of the Word.

## CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

140. When does sanctification begin? When our sins are pardoned, and we are born again, we are at the same time sanctified.

141. What is entire sanctification? Entire sanctification is the state in which the heart is cleansed from all unrighteousness, in which God is loved with all our heart and mind and soul and strength, and our neighbor as ourselves. 1 Thessalonians v. 23; Matthew v. 48; 1 John iii. 3; Mark xii. 30, 31.

142. How are believers kept in this state of salvation? By the power of the Holy Spirit, given through Christ, in answer to fervent prayer. 1 Peter i. 5.

[Ephesians vi. 14-18; Jude 20, 21.]

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