

Our Young Folks.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

The beautiful stars with their brilliant light,
Like angels guard by the throne of night,
And the sun with its fitful hide-and-seek play,
A "Happy New Year!" to the children say.

The clouds that gather, the winds that blow,
The glittering frost and the drifting snow,
As they bluster and frown on their own mad way,
A "Happy New Year!" to the children say.

River and pond are like seas of glass,
And the coasting-places hard to pass;
While skates and runners in arrowy play,
A "Happy New Year!" to the children say.

The school goes easy after the fun;
The brain where the summer cobwebs spun
Is clear, and the lessons from day to day,
A "Happy New Year!" to the children say.

And, oh, when the lamps of home are bright,
And round them gather, each blessed night,
Parents and children in love's sweet way,
A "Happy New Year!" to the whole world say.

GOLDEN GRAIN BIBLE READINGS

BY REV. J. A. R. DICKSON, B.D., GALT.

THE GODLY MAN'S WAYS.

1. It is a way of light, Psa. xcvi. 11; Pro. iv. 18.
Because God is light, Psa. xcvi. 1. The word is a light,
Psa. cxix. 105.
Christ is the light, Jno. viii. 12.
2. It is a way of peace, Col. iii. 15; 2 Thess. iii. 16.
Because in Christ he has peace, John xvi. 33; John xiv. 27.
3. It is a way of conflict, 1 Tim. vi. 12; 1 Cor. ix. 25.
Because it lies through the midst of an alien world,
John xvi. 33; John xv. 18-21.
4. It is a way of victory, 1 John v. 4; 2 Cor. ii. 14.
Because Christ is Captain of the host, 1 Cor. xv. 57;
Matt. xii. 20.
5. It is a way of human fellowship, Isa. xxxv. 10; 1 John i. 3.
Because the godly go in bands, drawn together by the
Spirit heavenward, Heb. xiii. 13-15.
6. It is a way of divine communion, Isa. lxiv. 5; first
clause.
Because God goes with the godly man, Heb. xiii. 5; Josh. i. 5.
7. It is a way of divine revelation, Psa. xxv. 14; Proverbs
iii. 32.
Because God is ever saying to the faithful soul, "Friend,
come up higher."

TELL THE TRUTH.

There are too many persons who sometimes find it convenient to "lie a little." The following incident in the life of General Grant is a severe rebuke to such persons.

An important conference was being held in the executive mansion in Washington. A caller had sent in his card, but either the caller was unwelcome or the time was quite unsuitable for his admission. One of the persons present turned to a servant and said:

"Tell the person who sent up the card that the President is not in."

"No," said General Grant, "tell him no such thing." Then turning to his friends the General remarked:

"I don't lie myself, and I don't want my servants to lie for me."

That was noble. If our boys want to copy the example of great men, let them pick out such things as this and follow them. Great men, as well as others, make mistakes. The mistakes they make are not any better or nearer right because they were made by great and leading men. We are not to be excused for following great men into wrong-doing. We should follow only their examples when they do right. The example of General Grant in reference to telling the truth is worthy of copying. His words, with a little change, are worthy of being used as a motto: "I don't lie for myself, and I don't want anyone else to lie for me."

HOW TO CURE A BAD TEMPER.

"Well, if I have a bad temper, how can I help it? A little thing puts me out, and then I am sure to be very angry." Such were the words of a little boy named Fred Smith. And as he spoke them a frown rested on his face.

A lady who was on a visit to Fred's father's heard these words. The few days she had been in the family had brought to her notice the bad conduct of the little boy. As she had been much grieved about it, she felt it was her duty to speak to him on the subject.

One evening they were in the library. Soon she began to talk to him about the folly and sin of allowing his angry temper to overcome him. "Try to cure it, Fred," said she, "for it must make you unhappy in your own mind, as it makes you unlovely in the eyes of your friends. Consider, too, how wicked it is in the sight of God. If you would see how such conduct appears, and what it leads to, read the story of Cain in Genesis iv. 3-15, and then turn to Matthew v. 21-24, and hear what our Lord says of anger."

"I will try to cure my bad temper—that I am resolved," said Fred; but he made the resolve in his own strength. The next day showed him how weak he was in himself, for on only

a slight affront he flew into a passion with his cousin Charles who got before him in class; he scolded his sister Mary, who had by accident broken the tail off his kite, and burst into a fit of anger when he stumbled over the yard dog as it lay basking in the sunshine.

A few weeks after the day the lady had left, he sat down and wrote her a letter, in which he said:

"To-day is my birthday, and I mean to turn over a new leaf, as father calls it. I have quite made up my mind to attend to what you told me. I will never more be angry. I will always fight against my naughty temper. It makes me unhappy, and my parents are unhappy too. And you say that it offends the Holy God."

Now this was quite right, but then Fred had forgotten to pray. He had again resolved in his own strength to fight against his temper. He had not asked to be forgiven his past sins, nor sought help from God to overcome his evil passions.

The kind lady to whom he wrote sent a reply, in which were these words:

"I am glad you have made up your mind boldly to resist all bad temper. This is as it should be; but we can do nothing without the help of the Holy Spirit, nor can we hope to be pardoned except we believe in our Lord Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul felt that he could do all things if Christ gave him strength; and we know what he overcame and what he did through the grace of his Saviour. Do not forget, then, to seek of God for that help you need. If you seek it, you shall find it."

Fred did indeed pray, and God heard his prayer. From that time he began to "watch and pray." He then fought with success, and became known among all his friends as "Little Fred, the kind-tempered boy."

So let us all watch against whatever may lead us into evil or awaken bad tempers within us. Let us watch against the first risings of passion in our hearts, and watch unto prayer. Whilst we pray that we enter not into temptation, we must "avoid it, pass not by it and pass away." Proverbs iv. 15. And if we are at any time over-astay, let us truly repent of our sins, and ask for more grace for the time to come, while we look in faith to Jesus, that, for His sake, we may be forgiving.

"When for some little insult given,
My angry passions rise,
I'll think how Jesus came from heaven,
And bore his injuries."

"When upon the cross He bled,
With all His friends in view,
'Father, forgive them,' 'twas, He said;
They know not what they do."

A GOOD WORD IS NEVER LOST.

Field Marshal Suvaroff, Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Army in the reign of Catherine II., was famous for his pithy sayings. He was small of stature, with an ugly face and shabby attire, but by sympathy and tact as well as by masterly military ability he won greater power over his own soldiers than any Russian general before or after.

Just before one of his campaigns he gathered together a number of his best men, and thus addressed them: "We are about to fight the French. Remember, whatever you encounter, you must go bravely forward. If the enemy resist, kill them; if they yield, spare them, a Russian soldier is not a robber, but a Christian! Now go, and tell your comrades what I have said!"

Soon a great battle took place, and the French were defeated. A brave soldier named Mitrophanoff captured, with the help of another, a French officer and two of his men. Mitrophanoff bound up the wounded officer's arm, and finding that the prisoners were faint for want of food, shared with them his own loaf of coarse rye bread.

When they had finished eating, several Russian grenadiers, fresh from the heat of battle, rushed upon them, crying out: "What! three of these French dogs still living! Die, villains!" levelling their bayonets as they spoke.

"Hold, lads!" cried Mitrophanoff, "the lives that I have saved you cannot touch!"

But the infuriated soldiers would not hear him, and were about to carry out their purpose when a stern voice from behind shouted out: "Halt, I tell you! On your peril advance a step further." and a little pug-nosed, dingy-faced man, dressed in a coarse linen shirt and tattered trousers, stepped in among them.

Had he been a ghost these fierce soldiers could not have been more abashed.

Skulking away quietly, they had only time to mutter: "The General."

"Yes, the General," growled Suvaroff; "he will assuredly have some of you shot if you cannot learn to obey orders better. And you, Mitrophanoff," turning to the soldier, "who, pray, taught you to be so good? we did not think you were made of such stuff."

"You taught me yourself, sir," answered the grenadier, proudly. "Did you think I had forgotten what you told us last week, that a Russian soldier should be a Christian, and not a robber?"

"Right, my man," exclaimed Suvaroff, his face all aglow with the consciousness of a well-taught lesson, "a good word is never lost, you see! Give me your hand, my lad. You will be a sergeant to-morrow, and a right good one you'll make, too!"

True to his word, the Russian general promoted Mitrophanoff the next day, and all because of the few words of counsel which had fallen upon his heart and made him tender and true, altogether changing his mode of action.

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