

SUNDAY SCHOOL BANNER

for
TEACHERS
AND
YOUNG PEOPLE.

Vol. XXXII.

DECEMBER, 1898.

No. 12.

My Christmas Gift.

Lord, thou still givest gifts to me;
Thy mercy, like the dew,
From day to day my glad eyes see,
Forever fresh and new.

Thou giv'st me loss, and joy, and pain,
My peace, my griefs, are thine;
The need that is my greater gain
Grief lost in love divine.

Thy face is hid behind the cloud
That darkens all my days;
I know without that failing shroud
I could not bear thy gaze.

Thou giv'st me lessons every hour;
Thou giv'st me faith to trust
The gracious hidings of thy power—
To know thee true and just.

Thou gavest me thy greatest gift,
When on that distant morn,
Thou didst the gates of glory lift,
And Christ my Lord was born.

What shall I on thy altar lay,
From out my want and woe?
What offerings on this happy day
Within thy temple stow?

I, the poor beggar at thy door,
To thee what can I bring?
The want of all things is my store;
Shall I thy praises sing?

Shall I go wandering up and down,
A bedesman of the Lord,
And show his cross, become my crown,
A witness to thy word?

My speech the sons of men disdain,
My words refuse to hear;
Thy message from my lips is vain,
They will not love nor fear.

A contrite soul, a breaking heart,
The life I strive to live,
A fight to grasp the better part,
Are all that I can give.

A poor and blemished sacrifice,
That Israel would not own,
How can I bring before thine eyes,
Or cast beneath thy throne?

Look thou upon thy spotless Lamb,
Who came my sins to bear,
The feeblest of his fold I am,
Yet thou wilt find me there.

The smoking flax, the broken reed,
Thy mercy will not scorn;
A worthless gift, that ye can plead,
"My Lord to-day was born!"

—New York Independent.

The True Christmas.

The meaning of Christmas is unity. The burden of the angelic song was "Peace." The tidings rang out with one voice from innumerable lips. A united heaven sang out the message of unity to a distracted world. Heaven's whole meaning was condensed in one word, and that word was "peace." The time had now come when men might learn to be at peace with one another and with God. The object of Christ's coming was none other than this—to unite man to God through union with himself, and to make man a partaker of the divine nature. Thus all things should at last be subdued to him, and he should reign over a kingdom at unity in itself, and the harmony of heaven should obtain on earth.—Rev. W. S. Sayers.