

you have formed, it were to prove a happy one, and then try to see if we are right in giving you, as follows, a brief picture of what, in the best sense, a happy New Year is.

It will be a happy New Year, if, before it comes to a close, you will have learned, to take a very deep and tender interest in the Gospel and the kingdom of Jesus,—to love His name as the most precious thing to you in all the world, to fold your arms around His cross, and to get closely acquainted with Him as your Saviour, Friend, Elder Brother, and true loving Teacher. Do not say you are too young to understand these things;—turn to the Gospel and read the beautiful incident of Christ being found in the temple among the wise and learned doctors. He was then only twelve years of age; yet he was so in love with divine things that, when His mother gently reproached Him with his having lingered behind, He said: "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business." The incident is told that young readers may learn they cannot too soon give up their hearts to love the same blessed work.

It will be a happy New Year, if, in its course, you can every day feel you are making another and another step in Divine knowledge—seeing a new and clearer light shed on the texts and glories of the Bible—treasuring up another and another holy line between every sunrise and sunset; and if, at the end, you can look back and shew your parents and teachers that you can account for every lesson, in the large gain you have made of many wise and blessed truths.

It will be a happy New Year, if in its course, whether at school or by the fireside, whether in the Sabbath class or in the company of your home friends and playfellows, you learn each day to be more simple, truthful, and sincere—if a meek temper, a gentle bearing, and a sacred love of truth, day by day, shine out in every word you utter, every line of your features, and every turn of your manner. No one is too poor that he may not aspire to be gentle, loving, and true; and no one is too rich, or highly educated, but he must sink out of the respect of good men if he forgets to be all three.

It will be a happy New Year, not if, in its course, you escape peril, sorrow, sickness, temptation, a sore heart, and bitter tears; but if, passing through any or all of these, you be taught how good and happy a thing it is to lean for your strength upon the cross of Jesus—how steady, calm, and noble it makes the youngest mind feel, when the knee is