

A NEW YEAR.

Here you are, little Year. Did you come
in the night,
When I was asleep in my bed?
And how did you find your way in before
light,
With no sun shining out overhead?
Did you pass the old year as he rushed out
of sight
With a pack that was heavy as lead?
He looked just like you, O so shilling and
slim,
When he made his bow twelve months
ago;
We all said "Good morning," politely to
him—
It was manners, dear Year, as you
know;
And his hand was outstretched, and his
eye was not dim,
As he stood in his first morning glow.

But his fifty-two weeks were so crowded
with work,
And he had such a handful of days,
That you couldn't expect, since he was not
a shirk,
He'd be chipper and cheery always;
His story was mixed up with brightness
and mirk,
And we'll speak of him only with praise.
As for you, little Year, you are growing
so fast,
As you stand in the other year's place,
That already the shadow that falls from
the past
Is weaving its veil o'er your face.
O happy New Year, may your happiness
last,
As you trot at the century's pace!
—Harper's Round Table.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF THE ACTS.

LESSON I. [January 5.]

THE PROMISE OF POWER.

Acts 1. 1-11. Memorize verses 6-8.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Ye shall receive power, after that the
Holy Ghost is come upon you.—Acts 1. 8.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

Who wrote the Acts of the Apostles?
Luke. What was his "former treatise"?
The gospel of Luke. Whom may Luke
have meant by "Theophilus"? Perhaps
a dear friend, certainly all who love God.
What does he first tell them? Of the
Lord's last talk with his disciples. Why
did our Lord want to tell them many
things? Because he was about to leave
them. What did he tell them to wait for?
The Holy Spirit. What did he say they
should be? Witnesses. What must a

witness do? Tell the truth about what he
knows. What did the disciples know?
That Jesus died and rose again. While
he spoke what did he do? He went up out
of their sight. Where did they then go?
To an upper room to wait and pray.

DAILY STEPS.

- Mon. Read the lesson verses carefully.
Acts 1. 1-14.
- Tues. Find "Theophilus" in the "for-
mer treatise." Luke 1. 1-4.
- Wed. Find where Jesus first promised
the Holy Spirit. Luke 11. 13.
- Thur. Read about the Holy Spirit. John
14.
- Fri. Read more about him. John 16.
- Sat. Learn the Golden Text.
- Sun. Find a promise which Jesus made.
John 14. 16.

LESSON II. [January 12.]

THE PROMISE OF POWER FULFILLED.

Acts 2. 1-11. Memorize verses 2-4.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The promise is unto you, and to your
children.—Acts 2. 39.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

How long did the disciples wait for the
gift of the Spirit? Ten days. When did
it come? On the day of Pentecost. What
is this sometimes called? The feast of
first-fruits. What day of ours is it like?
Our Thanksgiving Day. How long after
the Passover feast did it come? Fifty
days. Where were the disciples on the
day of Pentecost? In an upper room in
Jerusalem. What were they doing?
Praying and waiting. What did they
hear? A great sound like wind. What
did they see? A bright light like tongues
of fire. What did they feel? A strange
power within them. What did Peter say
of it? That it was the Holy Spirit spoken
of by Joel the prophet. Why is the Holy
Spirit like a wind? He can be felt, but
not seen. Why is he like a fire? Be-
cause he burns up sin. Why is he like a
tongue? He gives power to speak for
Jesus.

DAILY STEPS.

- Mon. Read the strange story in the les-
son. Acts 2. 1-11.
- Tues. Read what Peter said. Acts 2.
14-36.
- Wed. Learn the Golden Text, and be glad
that you are a child.
- Thur. Find who were filled with the
Spirit. Acts 1. 13, 14.
- Fri. Read what a prophet said long be-
fore. Acts 2. 16-18.
- Sat. Learn what is the fruit of the
Spirit. Gal. 5. 22, 23.
- Sun. Read about the work of the Spirit.
John 16. 7-13.

We are trees, and fruitful ones. It is
for us to say what kind of fruit we shall
bear, and how much.

HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Happy New Year! Now who will try
By each day's thoughtful caring,
By gentle ways, by loving words,
By patience and forbearing;—

By knightly service to the weak,
Thus growing truer, bolder,
By giving to the sinking wheel
A staunch and sturdy shoulder;—

By steadfastness in daily work
Until the task be done;
Then hearty zest for every game,
And fairness in the fun;—

By watching that the steps be right,
All the twelve-month through,
To make in home, and school, and street,
Your New Year's wish come true?

—Child's Hour.

A THISTLE IN JACK'S HEART.

"If I were a farmer," said Jack to his
mother, "I wouldn't let any old thistles
grow in my fields. I wouldn't have any-
thing but the best grain and fruit."

"But how about the field you do own?"
asked his mother very seriously. "I
thought I saw a thistle sprouting up in it
the other day."

"The field I do own?" asked Jack in
surprise.

"The other day I heard you say,
'Plague take it!' an expression I never
heard you use before. I said 'Some one
has sowed a thistle in Jack's heart.'"

Our lives are fields given us by God.
Our parents and teachers are trying to sow
good seed, so that nothing but the grain
and fruit may grow in them. Are we
helping them?—Junior World.

A LITTLE TEACHER.

Children in India, like white children,
sometimes have elevated ideas of them-
selves when they know a little. I was
amused one day in the children's ward to
see a little Christian girl, who was just
learning to say her letters, with the Bible
open on her knees, and around her were
gathered several women, two or three men,
and all the little children, and she was
reading verses (reciting from memory)
and telling them about Jesus. I listened,
hiding behind the wall; for if I had gone
in, she could have stopped. Every one
was listening attentively, not doubting in
the least but the child knew how to read.
I turned away attending to something, and
when I came back I saw them all with
heads bowed repeating the Lord's Prayer.
I could only kneel myself, and ask God
to bless what had been said. How one
longed that those who bowed their heads
because the little girl told them to
know Jesus as the child knew!
Woman's Work for Women.