

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS.

There were three little folks, long ago,
Who solemnly sat in a row,
On a December night,
And attempted to write
For the new year a good resolution.

"I will try not to make so much noise,
And be one of the quietest boys."
Wrote one of the three
Whose uproarious glee
Was the cause of no end of confusion.

"I resolve that I never will take
More than two or three pieces of cake."
Wrote plump little Pete,
Whose taste for the sweet
Was a problem of puzzling solution.

The other, her paper to fill,
Began with, "Resolved, that I will"—
But right there she stopped,
And fast asleep dropped
Ere she came to a single conclusion.
—Standard.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF ACTS.

LESSON III. [Jan. 18.

PAUL AT THESSALONICA AND BERECA.

Acts 17. 1-12. Memorize verses 2-4.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet.—Psa. 119. 105.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

Where did Paul and Silas go from Philippi? Where did they first go? What did Paul do? What chapter tells of the death of Christ? The fifty-third of Isaiah. Did many believe Paul's words? Who were they? What did the unbelieving Jews do? Who were they like? The priests and Pharisees who persecuted Jesus. Whose house did they attack? Whom did they arrest? What did they think that Jason's friends had done? Who were troubled? What did they finally do? Where were Paul and Silas sent? What kind of Jews did they find at Bereca? What did they do daily? Who were the believers? Jews, Greeks, and honourable women.

DAILY STEPS.

Mon. Find how Paul and Silas led by. Golden Text.
Tues. Read the lesson verses. Acts 17. 1-12.
Wed. Find what Paul and Silas were led by. Golden Text.
Thur. Read a blessing for the persecuted. Matt. 5. 10.
Fri. Read how Paul himself had been a persecutor. Acts 9. 1, 2.

Sat. Read about his conversion. Acts 9. 3-20.

Sun. Read David's song of deliverance. Psa. 125.

THREE LITTLE LESSONS.

We have learned—

1. That our duty is always just before us.
2. That it is often hard to do.
3. But that the Lord gives joy and strength.

LESSON IV. [Jan. 25.

PAUL'S COUNSEL TO THE THESSALONIANS.

1 Thess. 5. 14-28. Memorize verses 16-18.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Hold fast that which is good.—1 Thess. 5. 21.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

What did Paul form at Thessalonica? A Christian church. Of what three classes of people? Had they a New Testament? No. Why? It was not yet written. What did Paul do? He wrote them two letters. What are they called? Where was he when he wrote them? In Corinth. What was Paul to these Christians? Their spiritual father. Why did he love them? He had the love of Christ. What does he tell the strong? To be good to the weak. What to the impatient? To be "patient toward all men." What to all? To rejoice, pray, and give thanks. How does he tell them to choose the right? "Prove all things." What is the Golden Text? What is his prayer? That they may be kept pure until Christ comes.

DAILY STEPS.

Mon. Read the beginning of Paul's letter. 1 Thess. 1. 1-10.
Tues. Read the lesson verses. 1 Thess. 5. 14-28.
Wed. Whom did Paul send to the Thessalonians? 1 Thess. 3. 1-8.
Thur. Read a rejoicing psalm. Psa. 150.
Fri. Learn the Golden Text.
Sat. Find a promise of faithfulness. Psa. 125. 1, 2.
Sun. Learn Paul's blessing upon the Thessalonians. 2 Thess. 3. 16.

THREE LITTLE LESSONS.

We have learned—

1. That we may "rejoice evermore."
2. That we may hold fast that which is good.
3. That we may be kept pure from evil.

A boy who had given his heart to Jesus said: "I have had two birthdays; one when I was born into the world, and the other when I was born into Christ's kingdom." Have you had your second birthday? Without it no one can ever enter the Kingdom of heaven.

ALL FOR GOD.

A poor little girl came one day and brought to her Sunday-school teacher an old rag doll. Evidently it was very dear to her, for she looked at it longingly, tearfully, before she gave it to the lady. Then suddenly she held it out and said with a sob: "They said that we must bring something for Christ. This is all that I have to bring. Oh, I hate to let it go, but—take it! I want to give something."

Now that's the spirit which Christ wants us to manifest. We must give something, and the more we love that something the better he prizes the gift, because in giving it we prove how much we are in earnest. It must be a complete surrender of our wills, ourselves, to God; and not until we have made that surrender do we know the blessedness that comes of giving up everything for God. Then we find out that what was given up is as nothing compared with what we gain. But there must be this giving up—it's the test of our sincerity.

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 shining 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'll 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.