

## A HAPPY NEW YEAR

HARK! oh, hark! those sounds ascending  
Heaven and earth one anthem raise  
"God of love our lives defending,  
Through a year of happy days"

"God of seasons still providing  
Summer's heat and winter's cheer,  
Giving light and love and gladdening,  
Goodness crowns the glad New Year.

"Still with grateful love confessing,  
By thee fed and feasted here,  
Still we crave another blessing,  
Grace to crown the circling year.

"Oh, may Jesus tune our voices,  
Fill our hearts with peace and joy,  
Till our every sense rejoices  
In the Saviour's blest employ."

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## HAPPY DAYS.

TORONTO, DECEMBER 31, 1892.

## A NEW YEAR.

THE years are born in heaven. They are the thoughts of God, and they are blessings provided for his creatures. He rounds up the seasons each in its time. He brings the spring time with its thrill of new life, its bud and bloom and beautiful promise. He brings the summer with its noon-tide splendour, and autumn with its ripened fullness. He brings also winter with its severe grandeur. He gives twelve richly laden months, three hundred and sixty five days, each morning a blessing new from his hand, and he floods our life with golden moments in uncounted myriads. To the bounty of God's giving there is no limit. And the blessings he gives are committed to our trust. They are talents or pounds of the Saviour's parables, given us that we may make gain by their use. At sometime he will call us to give an account of the use we have made of them. To the faithful ones—faithful over a few things—there is

pledged an abundant reward. To the negligent and unprofitable servant will be assigned the portion of outer darkness.

## NEW YEAR'S GREETING.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR to you, dear children, one and all, boys and girls, big ones and little ones. Throughout the year that has now begun may God keep you from all evil, and bless you with every good gift. Life is indeed "worth living," with God for our Father, Christ for our Saviour, and the Holy Spirit for our Teacher and Guide. And when we think of the many ways in which we may not only get good, but do good, we shall surely feel that it is a glad and happy thing to be alive.

You will remember that it is said of our Lord Jesus Christ that he "went about doing good." Should not all who love him imitate him in this? Could you begin the New Year better than by asking him to help you to follow in his steps? Alas! there are many who go about doing evil. Their example, their influence, the things they say and do, all tend to make the world worse than it is. It is, therefore, the more needful that Christians should be fully alive and awake, and do all the good they can, in all the ways they can, and be workers together with God in gathering the world into his fold.

Think well over the words of the Saviour when he was a child, "I must be about my Father's business." Make them your own. You also have a Father in heaven, and he has work for you to do at home, at school, on Sundays and weekdays, at work, at play, you may be about your Father's business. Try to help others. Be loving, and patient, and kind to those who are around you, and try to do something for the good of the heathen at home and abroad, of the sinful and sorrowful multitudes in this and other lands. Pray for them. Do not forget this. "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of." Read what is written by the missionaries about their work, and you will feel how good a work it is, and long to help them. And you can help them. Last year the money you collected went to support many missionaries to the heathen, to provide schools and teachers for the children, homes for orphans, and hospitals for the sick. Your work carried help to many lands, and joy to many hearts. We thank you for what you have done, and we ask you to go on and do still better if you can. We want many new collectors this year, and the old ones to take care they are not left behind.

## THE TRAVELLER'S TREE.

IN Madagascar there are many curious plants and trees. A man who was once travelling there had emptied his water-flask and was suffering from thirst. "Where can we get water?" he asked of one of the natives.

"Right here, sir, any time you like," said the man.

Then he led him to a group of tall, standing quite near, with straight trunks and bright green, broad leaves growing out of both sides of the stalk, making the tree appear like a great fan.

"You think this a fine tree," said the native, "and so it is; now I shall show you what it is good for."

He pierced one of the leaf stems at a point where it joined the tree, and a stream of clear water spurted out, and the traveller caught in his water and found to be a cool, fresh, excellent drink.

The native went on to say, "This which is good for us in more ways than one, we call the 'traveller's tree.' The leaves drink in the rain that fall on them and store it for the thirsty traveller's use."

Did that native know the good God had provided for the wants of his creatures in such a curious way? We say, "The Lord is good to all and his mercies are over all his works."

## THE NEW YEAR.

ANOTHER year is dawning!  
Dear Master, let it be,  
In working or in waiting,  
Another year with thee.

Another year of progress,  
Another year of praise;  
Another year of proving,  
Thy presence "all the days"

Another year is dawning!  
Dear Master, let it be,  
On earth, or else in heaven,  
Another year with thee.

## FATHER KNOWS.

A GENTLEMAN was one day opening a box of goods. His little son was standing near, and as his father took the packages from the box he laid them upon the arm of the boy. A young friend and playmate of the merchant's son was standing looking on. As parcel after parcel was laid upon the arm of the boy, his friend began to fear that his load was becoming too heavy, and said: "Johnny, don't think you have got as much as you can bear?"

"Never mind," answered Johnny, in a happy tone, "father knows how much I can carry."

Brave, trustful little fellow! He did not grow restless or impatient under the burden. There was no danger, he knew that his father would lay too heavy a load on him. His father knew his strength, rather the weakness of that little arm, and would not overtask it. More than all, his father loved him, and therefore would not harm him. It is such a spirit of trust in him that God desires all his children to possess.

YOU, dear child, never lose by doing a good act.