

NEW YEAR BELLS.

O'er the snowy meadows ringing  
Comes the chiming, sweet and clear;  
Hark, the message they are bringing,  
"Unto all a glad New Year!"  
List how softly they are stealing,  
Louder now, oh, joyful bells!  
Then again so faintly pealing—  
Thus the music dies and swells.

How I love to hear them ringing,  
Like a tuneful hymn of praise!  
With the bells my heart is singing,  
"Joyful be the dawning days!"  
New Year! New Year! thou hast roses,  
Summer light and all things fair,  
Every hour new joy discloses,  
Blessings crown us everywhere.

Mother says this year will render  
Sweeter gifts than dreams can know  
Unto gentle lives and tender,  
Unto hearts with love that glow;  
Hands that move in help and cheering,  
Little footsteps swift to aid—  
Mother says the year that's nearing  
Brings them flowers that never fade.

So ring out, oh, bells of gladness,  
Happy bells! ring out and say,  
"Little children, fear no sadness;  
Gentle Jesus leads the way.  
He will still be watching o'er you  
Down the path untrod and dim;  
Day by day he goes before you—  
Little lambs, come follow him."

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE WRITINGS OF JOHN.

LESSON III.—JANUARY 15.

JESUS WINS HIS FIRST DISCIPLES.  
John 1. 35-51. Memorize verses 40, 41.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.—John 1. 49.

DAILY STEPS.

- Mon. Read what John the Baptist said. John 1. 29-34.
- Tues. Read the lesson verses from your Bible. John 1. 35-51.
- Wed. Learn Nathanael's confession. Golden Text.
- Thur. Find another call of two brothers. Matt. 4. 21.
- Fri. Learn the right way to obey. Matt. 4. 20.
- Sat. Learn the good of following Jesus. Hosea 6. 3.
- Sun. Try to make a certain scribe's words your own. Matt. 8. 19

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

How did Jesus begin his Church? By going among the people. What did John the Baptist say of him? "Behold the Lamb

of God." Who wanted to know the Lamb of God? Two of John's disciples. Who were they? John and Andrew. What did Jesus do for them? He took them to his lodging. Whom did Andrew bring to Jesus? His brother Simon. Whom did Jesus call next? Philip of Bethsaida. And whom did Philip bring to Jesus? Nathanael. Did Nathanael believe in Jesus? Not at first. When did he believe? When Jesus read his heart. What did Nathanael say? Golden Text. How many disciples had Jesus then? Five.

THREE LITTLE LESSONS.

We have learned that—

1. Jesus called men to be his disciples.
2. They heard the call in their hearts.
3. He calls all his disciples in the same way.

LESSON IV.—JANUARY 22.

THE FIRST MIRACLE IN CANA.

John 2. 1-11. Memorize verse 11.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Whosoever he saith unto you, do it.—John 2. 5.

DAILY STEPS.

- Mon. Read the lesson verses carefully. John 2. 1-11.
- Tues. Find the names of the five disciples.
- Wed. Learn the words of Mary. John 2. 5
- Thur. Read about God's kind of wine. Psa. 104. 15.
- Fri. Read about men's kind of wine. Prov. 23. 29-32.
- Sat. Learn why Jesus could do this miracle. John 1. 3.
- Sun. Learn what the true wine is like. John 4. 14.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

Who were the first disciples of Jesus? John, Andrew, Simon, Philip and Nathanael. Where did they go with Jesus? Into Galilee. How long had they been disciples? Three days. What did Jesus find? That he must go to a wedding at Cana. With whom did he go? With his mother and his disciples. What happened? The wine gave out. What did Mary do? She spoke about it to Jesus and to the servants. What stood near? Six large water jars. What did Jesus do? He told the servants to fill them with water. What did it become? Wine. Who served it at Jesus' word? The servants. What did the master of the feast call it? The best of the wine.

THREE LITTLE LESSONS.

We have learned that—

1. The Lord wants his children to be good.
2. He also wants them to be happy.
3. He can make them both good and happy.

SEEKING THE LIGHT.

BY F. H. STAUFFER.

"Oh, papa!" It was Master Fred's voice. It was not a cry of alarm or distress, but one of intense surprise. Mr.

Durnell descended the steps which led into the cellar, and saw his son staring at a long, frail, whitish-yellow vine that had clambered across the floor.

"What is it, papa?" asked Fred, "And where did it come from?"

"We'll soon see," replied the father.

He lit a match, and followed the vine to a dark corner; and Fred saw that it had grown out of a half-decayed potato.

"Why, that's queer, isn't it?" he asked.

"It is not unusual," rejoined his father; "the vine simply obeyed a law of its nature. In what direction did it creep?"

"Toward the cellar window," Fred said, after a moment's hesitation.

"Attracted by what?" asked the father.

"To find what?"

"Sunshine, I guess," was Fred's answer.

"Yes, my son. And see with what persistency it sought the light! The fire-place was in its way, and it crept around it; the vinegar-barrel was an obstruction, and it crept over it. Now let us examine the end of the vine."

As he spoke, he led the way to the window.

"See," he said. "It has put out leaves at the point; and the ends of the leaves are tinged with a delicate green, a tint and vigor absorbed from the sunlight, which will grow greener and stronger every day. If you turned the vine away from the window, and came to look at it to-morrow, you would find that it had set out for the light again."

"Would it?" asked Fred, almost incredulously.

"Yes, my boy; I have tried the experiment. What does the plant seem to desire most?"

"Light," replied Fred.

"And what inference can be drawn from that?"

Fred debated a moment. "That light is essential to life," he said; "that we need sunshine as well as the plants."

"But there is a spiritual significance," his father gravely remarked.

A thoughtful look came into Fred's face. "I know what you mean, papa," he said; "our spiritual life needs light."

"Or we will not grow," added his father.

WHAT IS ICE?

"Who can tell me what ice is?" asked the schoolteacher one day in the classroom. In answer to her question, a little girl, raised her hand.

"Tell me what you think it is," said the teacher.

"Ice is water that is fast asleep," replied the little girl.