

SUNBEAM

ENLARGED SERIES.—VOL. XVIII.]

TORONTO, JANUARY 2, 1897.

No. 1.

THE NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE.

A NEW year has begun. What kind of a year is it to be to you, boys and girls? Is it to be indeed a "happy" one? That will depend on yourself. "On myself?" some little one asks with surprise. Yes, my dear, on your own little self.

Don't you believe that God wants you to have a happy year? Indeed he does; and he is ready to do all he can to make it so. But even God, who we are accustomed to say can do everything, cannot make a happy year for you unless you help him.

And how can you help him? By doing just as he wants you to do in everything. He wants you to speak the truth, to be obedient to your parents, to be kind and loving to every one, to be industrious, pure-minded and honest. He wants you to keep the Sabbath holy, to read the Bible, to pray to him every day, to confess and forsake sin, to trust and love Jesus.

Now, are you ready for all this? If you are, your year will begin with God's smile, and his loving face will beam on you to the end. And what a happy year you will have! You will say when you come to its close that you never had such a happy one before.

Ah, God knows very well what will make us happy. It is to have no



A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

us. We must go to our Heavenly Father and ask him for Jesus' sake to give us the new heart, washed from sin in the precious blood of Christ, and made soft and pure and tender and right. Then we shall love to please God, to do his will, and shall be happy.

THE NEW SONG.

A YOUNG lady who had refused many times to yield to the Lord, became greatly burdened because of her sins, and sought the Lord. She had ridiculed others for being so straight and plain, and for loving their Bible, but now the Lord forgave her. She felt he lifted the weight of sins from her, and forgave her freely. Immediately she began to sing his praise, and said to the minister, "Oh! now I want to tell it to my mother and sister. Now I want to go with my sister and help her in meetings." She was no longer ashamed of the narrow way, or those who walked in it. The Psalmist said when the Lord saved him that he had put a new song in his

naughty will of our own, but to do his will.

Dear children, we are all by nature sinful, and so we do not love to do this. We choose to go on in our own way, and so we are not happy. We need new hearts: that is what we need most, every one of

mouth. So it is with every one who is born of God.

You may have many friends, but you have none so kind, so ready, so able to help you as the Lord Jesus.