

Saviour. (3) "Return unto Me, and I will return unto you" (Golden Text—Repeat). Explain how our giving to God,—ourselves, money, time, etc.,—brings blessing to us. (Vs. 7-10.) (4) "I will rebuke the devourer", etc., v. 11. God sends us plentiful harvests. We live in peace and safety. (5) "All nations shall call you blessed", v. 12. This is surely true of our beloved country. (6) "They shall be mine", etc., v. 17. Sing Hymn 591, Book of Praise.

A Saviour Promised—The greatest and best is the promise of a Saviour, who shall save His people from their sins, who shall cleanse and purify them.

Jesus Our Saviour—He has come and lived and died to save us. He is a living Saviour now, watching over us, ready to help and long-

ing to save us from all sin and to take us to be with Him in heaven when we die.

Repeat or Sing—

"Come to the Saviour, make no delay,
Here in His Word He's shown us the way;
Here in our midst He's standing to-day,
Tenderly saying, 'Come!'"

—Hymn 560, Book of Praise

Our bell rings, "Come to the Saviour!"

A Promise—Let us sing the refrain of the beautiful little hymn of promise, Hymn 553, Book of Praise:

"If I come to Jesus,
Happy I shall be,
He is gently calling
Little ones like me."

Something to Think About—Jesus is my Saviour.

FROM THE PLATFORM

"The people gathered . . . together"
"Ezra brought the book of the law"
"The ears of . . . the people were attentive"
"They had understood the words"

Have the scholars open their Bibles, that they may read in order four sentences which give the gist of the Lesson. Ask them to read, first, from v. 1, "*The people gathered . . . together*" (Write). Get an account of the place and time and purpose of this gathering. Next, have read, from v. 2, "*Ezra brought the book of the law*" (Write). Get the scholars to tell you who Ezra was, and ask for a description of the form of the "book". Let the scholars now read, from v. 3, "*The ears of . . . the people were attentive*" (Write), and point out that listening with attention was their part, as the reading was Ezra's. The last sentence to be read and have its meaning brought out is from v. 12, "*They had understood the words*" (Write). The application is evident,—the duty of coming to hear God's Word, and striving to understand and obey it.

CHRISTMAS LESSON—An Alternative Lesson

Matthew 2 : 1-12. Commit to memory vs. 11, 12.

GOLDEN TEXT—Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.—
Luke 2 : 11.

Time and Place—B. C. 4 or 5, the common reckoning being in error; Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

Connecting Links—Of the life of Jesus as a Child, and as a Boy and Man at home

in Nazareth, very little is known. Two evangelists (Mark and John) begin their books with the baptism by John, the opening of Jesus' public ministry. But Matthew (in chs. 1, 2) and Luke (in chs. 1-3) give a