

"REMEMBER NOW THY CREATOR IN THE DAYS OF THY YOUTH."



# OUR YOUNG PEOPLE



PUBLISHED BY THE  
TORONTO WILLARD TRACT DEPOSITORY.

VOL. I.

TORONTO, CANADA.

No. 14.

## The First Christmas.

**N**EARLY two thousand years ago, some shepherds were in the open fields of Palestine, watching their flocks by night, when suddenly a bright light shone around them, and soon a voice said—"Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tid-

think they found Him? In a stable with Joseph and Mary His mother. He had no soft bed such as you have, but was lying in a manger! There was no room for Him in the inn. No room for Jesus! Oh, how sad! As the shepherds returned to their work, they sang for joy.

One day some wise men, a long way off, saw a



THE WISE MEN SEEKING JESUS.

ings of great joy"—good news not only for you, but for every one on the face of the earth—Christ is born in Bethlehem. He for whom you have been looking so long.

The shepherds were so glad, that as soon as the angels were gone back to heaven, they hurried off to Bethlehem to see Jesus for themselves. Where do you

wonderful star. So they left their homes and went to Jerusalem to find out all about it. When they got there they asked, "Where is He that is born King of the Jews?" for they felt certain that Christ who had been talked about for so many years had at last come.

Herod, who was then king, asked the Jews if they

## Seek, and ye shall find.—Luke xi. 9.

knew where Christ was born ; and they told him what the Scriptures said.

He sent for the wise men, and told them to go and search for Jesus, and when they had found Him to tell him, that he might go and worship Him also ! Wicked man ! this was all pretence ; he wanted to kill Jesus.

The wise men found Christ ; for the star guided them to where He was, and they worshipped Him and made presents to Him. But that night, God told them not to go back to Herod ; and they went to their own country another way. Such are some of the facts about the great Christmas gift God gave to man.

Look forward, then, to Christmas Day with joyful expectation, not because of anticipated gifts or merry-making, but because of the One Gift that makes the best of all our holidays a holy day.

### God's Dwelling Place.

Isaiah lvii. 13.

A little boy, with rosy face,  
Whose heart had been renewed by grace,  
Was asked one day if he could tell  
"How great God was—where He did dwell?"  
Quick he replied—"Not all the sky,  
Nor all the shining worlds on high,  
Nor earth, nor air, nor heaven, nor hell,  
Are large enough for God to dwell ;  
Yet He came down in Love Divine,  
To dwell in this small heart of mine."

### What Jesus Will Say.

"EDITH Willis," said Ella, as the two girls were walking leisurely home from school one pleasant day in early autumn, "what will the girls say when they hear you have invited Maggie Kelly to your party?"

Edith was silent for a moment, and then raising her soft blue eyes to those of her companion, she replied, "Ella, when mamma told me to invite Maggie, I asked her the same question. She told me that it made no difference what the girls said, who thought Maggie quite beneath them because she was poor and her school-bills were paid by my papa ; and she asked me if I would like to hear what Jesus would say. So she took her Bible and read to me these words : 'And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren ye have done it unto me.'"

Ah, little readers, never ask what this or that one will say, when you are doing what is right ; but what Jesus, your King, will say at the glorious resurrection morning that will soon dawn upon us.

### Every Day.

There's a prayer that should be said,  
And a book that should be read,  
Every day.

There's a work that should be wrought,  
And a battle to be fought,  
Every day.

There are duties to be done,  
And victories to be won,  
As soars and sets the sun,  
Every day.

### A Valuable Book.

THERE is one book, which is worth more than all others, for it is full of wisdom. It is read more than any other book in the world. It has been translated into all the written languages of the earth. It has been more profusely illustrated with pictures than any other book. It is full of history, of battle scenes, of biographies, of stories and of poetry. It has its geography, its mountains, its valleys, its rivers, lakes, and seas. It has descriptions of travels, of voyages and shipwrecks, of governments, of trials before courts, of prisons, of executions. It has in fact everything in it that could interest man. That book is THE BIBLE.

### A Short History.

DR. GUTHRIE once told the following story : "One of our boys, a very little fellow, but uncommonly smart, entered the lists and carried off a prize against the whole of England and Scotland by his answer to the question : 'Can you give the history of the Apostle Paul in thirty words?' His answer was, 'Paul was born at Tarsus, and brought up at Jerusalem ; he continued a persecutor until his conversion, after which he became a follower of Christ, for whose sake he died.'"

### A Bible Pyramid.

I am.  
I am He.  
I am the Door.  
I am the true Vine.  
I am the Bread of Life.  
I am Alpha and Omega.  
I am the Good Shepherd.  
I am the Light of the World.  
I am the Resurrection and the Life.  
I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.  
I am He that liveth and was dead, and behold  
I am alive for evermore, and have the keys of  
hell and death.

[Will our young readers discover the references to these texts, without Concordance? To the boy or girl under 12 years of age sending us the first correct answer, we will give a prize Book. Must send with the answer a note from parents or teacher, stating that the texts were found by the parties themselves.]

### A Gift of God.

**I**N a back lane in the great city of London there lived a poor widow with one child, who was named Dorothy. She was a little girl of twelve, with fair hair and big brown eyes. But better than all her good looks, was her loving gentleness. Her mother often said that she really was what her name implied, "a gift of God." Little Dorothy, though poor, had learned to read, and had learnt from her Bible about God's great Christmas gift, Jesus. And then she tried to live for Him. Dorothy often thought of the meaning of her name, and was careful to be worthy of it. If God had sent her as a gift from Himself to her mother, surely she would try and do all she could, and be a loving, gentle child. And to be this, she remembered Who was her example, and tried to follow Him.

Dear young reader, are you trying to live as did little Dorothy? Remember, wherever your lot in life may be cast, if you are rich or poor, high or low, you are "gifts of God" to your parents. Now, have you ever thought of this? If you have not, do so now, and you will soon learn what kind of a child you ought to be.

### The Unspeakable Gift.

"Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable Gift."—2 Cor. ix.

**O**NCE two young friends of mine set to work to make a list of all God's gifts mentioned in the Bible. They found 530 gifts, and wrote them

out in a scroll, and it was more than two yards long in three columns, and in small writing too! Suppose you try and make a list at least one yard long!

What will you put down as the best gift of all? Here is the answer:

"God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (Jn. 3: 16).

All the other good gifts from our Father (Jas. 1: 17) come through this first great Gift, Jesus Himself. For He received gifts for us (Ps. 68: 18).

Unless we are very careless and ungrateful in-

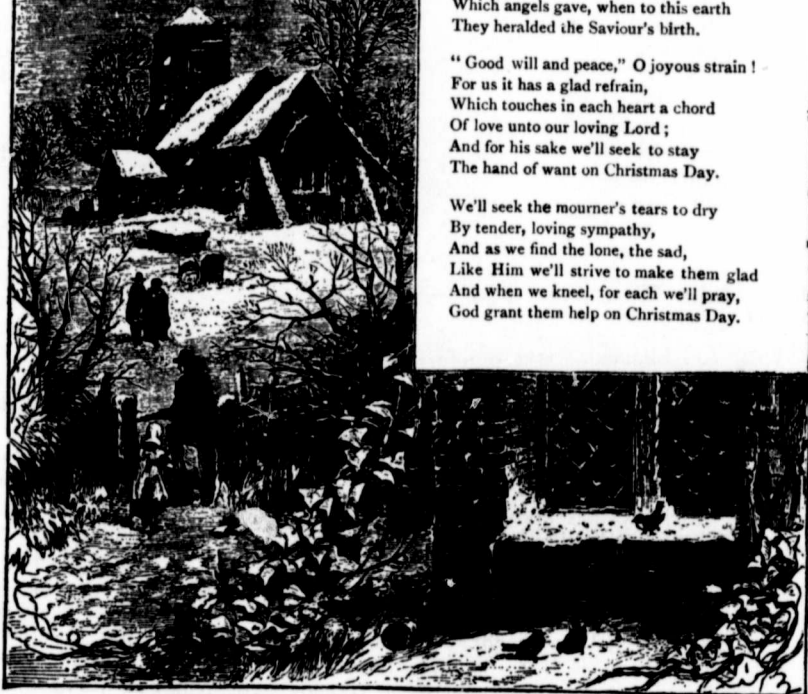


### Christmas Greeting.

Time's chariot wheels are moving on,  
Earth's Christmastides will soon be gone;  
But, while they last, we would repeat  
To all dear friends the greeting sweet  
Which angels gave, when to this earth  
They heralded the Saviour's birth.

"God will and peace," O joyous strain!  
For us it has a glad refrain,  
Which touches in each heart a chord  
Of love unto our loving Lord;  
And for his sake we'll seek to stay  
The hand of want on Christmas Day.

We'll seek the mourner's tears to dry  
By tender, loving sympathy,  
And as we find the lone, the sad,  
Like Him we'll strive to make them glad  
And when we kneel, for each we'll pray,  
God grant them help on Christmas Day.



deed, we always care about a gift. Oh what must God think of those who do not care about the most precious Gift He could possibly have given us!

Dear ones, have you cared for this wonderful Gift? Have you ever thanked God for giving you His own dear Son?—Selected.

# Notes on the S. S. Lessons.

By the Editor.

## The Gracious Invitation.

Isaiah 55: 1-11.

**T**HE lesson studied last week presented to us the wonderful scene of God's Son suffering for sinful man. To-day we have an invitation to come and share in all the blessings provided by, and flowing from this great Saviour. Now, dear children, you know that it gives you pleasure to receive an invitation to be present at a tea meeting, or to spend a pleasant day with a friend. How glad you are when your mother gives you permission to accept such an invitation; and perhaps it seems to you that the days pass slowly till that one arrives on which you are to enjoy the festival. Now, this lesson tells of a feast. You will see the nature of the feast if you read Matthew 22. And remember that the invitation is the most wonderful of all invitations to which the world has ever listened. It is a wonderful invitation, (1) Because it includes all, old and young, rich and poor, black or white, "EVERYONE." (2) With this invitation is a promise of everything for nothing, "WITHOUT MONEY." (3) As a rule, things which are given away are of little service, but here we have the promise of something valuable and satisfying:

Water to refresh—Wine to strengthen—Milk to nourish. Now, it is no use expecting to find any thing earthly that will satisfy you. Jesus has something to give you which will make you *quite* satisfied and glad, and you will be *always* satisfied and glad. Now, this must be meant for you, because He says "whosoever," and that means "anybody that likes!" And He says, "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to waters!" And, "If any man thirst, let him come unto Me and drink." (4) Not only will you get enough for yourself, but you will get so much that you will be able to give to others (read John 7: 38).

Now, dear children, is it not a grand invitation? Don't you think a boy or girl, or man, or woman would be foolish to refuse such an invitation? and yet they do. Perhaps you are doing so now. Have you given your heart to the Lord Jesus? Do you love to study your Bible? If not. Why? Simply because you have not accepted this invitation, for the lesson really means that God is asking you to believe on the

Lord Jesus Christ and be saved. Jesus is the Water—the Wine—the Milk, and the boy or girl who believes in Jesus finds satisfaction and pleasure. In fact he has a continual feast of good things

But read the 6th verse "Seek *while* He may be found"—"Call *while* He is near." If a person came and asked you to go to a party, and he said he had to take an answer back to the friends who sent the invitation, you would have to accept *while* the person was there. If you did not it would be too late after he had gone. So God says, "I want your answer. Will you accept?" Dear children, NOW is the time to say "Yes, Lord, I accept Jesus. I want to be at that great feast. I thank you for the invitation, and by thy help I come." That is doing as God *invites* you to do—as God *commands* you to do. And if you come just as you are, young as you are, He will gladly welcome you, and there will be joy in Heaven "because you have accepted it."

Will ye not say to him, like the poor women at the well, "Lord Jesus, give me this water, that I thirst not!" Listen to His kind answer! "Drink, yea, drink abundantly, O beloved!"

The Close.

**W**E have now reached the closing Sabbath of another year. In many schools the lesson will be a

Review. It is very important to have such a review, but we shall leave your teacher to choose his own line of thought, and we shall use the few lines left at our disposal in urging upon you to review the past year. I am sure you see many blots—many naughty words and actions. Remember, dear children, that you cannot blot them out. You cannot undo any of those acts. Perhaps you ask, "What shall we do, then, to remove these stains?" There is only one person that can forgive, and that is God. Now, will you not come to Him. Accept that invitation, of which we have just been speaking. He will blot out all the sins of the past. He will wash and make you white as snow. If you do this, the New Year will be a very "Happy New Year." May it prove so to each of our young readers.

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Edited by ALF. SANDHAM. Published on the first and third Saturday of each month, by the Toronto Willard Tract Depository,—S. R. BRIGGS, Manager—corner Yonge and Temperance Streets, Toronto, Ont.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.—PER YEAR—Single copies, 25c.; 10 copies, \$1.25; 50 copies, \$3.00; 100 copies, \$10.00.

