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THE SUNBEAM

ENLARGED SERIES—VOL. IX.]

TORONTO, DECEMBER 15, 1888.

[No. 27.]

DON'T THROW STONES.

Boys, don't throw stones. I have looked at it from every side, and it is a dangerous business. Nine times out of ten the spirit that whispers to boys who throw stones, and prompts them to do it, is an idle, mischievous, careless, wicked spirit. It says, every time it sees a stone in Charlie's path, without giving him time to think what may come of it: "Now, just see how far, or how straight, or how high you can throw it." Away it goes, and "O just my luck!"—a window is broken.

I was once in a beautiful new church. The sexton came down from the gallery, shaking his head and grinding his teeth. He had a little stone in his hand. "I wish I had the boy who threw that stone," said he; "I'd jerk him out of his boots!" I could scarcely blame him for being so rough, as he pointed up to one of the windows that had a



CHRISTMAS TREE.

hole in it where the stone came through. I wondered how the boy who threw it felt when he heard the crash. I have no doubt that he looked first this way and then that, and then ran like a coward.

I pity the boy that finds amusement in throwing stones at birds or their nests, or among a herd of cows or a flock of geese. It's every time the same old story over again of the frogs who said to the boys, "That may be fun to you, but it's death to us."

WINDOW FLOWERS.

It is very nice to have flowers blooming in your house through the winter. There are some plants that will bloom the whole winter, if they are properly cared for. But you must not forget to water them every day. If you do not, the roots will suffer, and they will cease to bloom. You must put them in a sunny window, and not let them freeze at night, nor get too hot by day.

NO ROOM FOR JESUS.

Was there no room in Bethlehem
For Jesus at the inn?
No room for Jesus when He came
To save a world from sin.

No room for Jesus in our homes,
Or round our board, when He,
Above all other friends beside,
An honoured guest should be!

No room for Jesus in our hearts?
O sad and fearful thought!
Room for all else but His dear love,
Who our redemption bought.

Dear little child, wilt thou not try
The Saviour's lamb to be?
So when He calls thee from on high
He will make room for thee.

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The Sunbeam.

TORONTO, DECEMBER 15, 1888.

CHRISTMAS TREES.

MERRY Christmas! Why do we keep it with so much joy and gladness? Is there a little child anywhere who does not know that it is the day when our dear Lord was born? "Christ the prince of glory slept on Mary's knee." The whole beautiful story is familiar to every one of us, and the sweetest thing about Christmas is that it belongs to every one of us, to the poorest as well as the richest, for the infant Jesus came to save the whole world.

The custom of hanging gifts on Christmas trees comes to us from Germany. There, for days beforehand, great preparations are made, and when the eve of Christmas arrives, the tree is lighted with tapers, and its boughs are loaded with presents for parents, children, teachers, friends and servants. We are glad that many of our

Sunday-schools follow the pretty home idea of the Fatherland to a wider conclusion, and have Christmas-trees in the Sunday-school.

FATHER CHRISTMAS' YOUNG DAYS.

No one who has read of the Christmas festivities of Old England can overlook the yule log, whose cheery blaze has enlivened so many English hearths. A heathen custom gave rise to this practice also. About the same time that we keep our great festival, the pagans used to celebrate "Yule-tide," or welcome to the new year. The word "yule," means festival of the sun. Those who helped to carry the yule-log were considered safe from the power of spells, and those who sat round the merry fire made up quarrels and were at peace. Twigs from the log, kept during the year, were believed to be safeguards against charms.

In early times Christmas was marked by much rejoicing and revelry. A man, who was styled "Lord of Misrule," was chosen to superintend the festivities. He would take up his abode in the house of a great lord, where he was followed by a numerous train, whom he ruled as king. He was allowed to do whatever he chose; and no one, whether king or earl, was to take offence at his jokes. Perhaps these revelries reached their highest pitch in the reign of Edward the Sixth.

We must not forget the feasts of this season. A boar's head is still seen on the Queen's table at Christmas. In olden days this dish, crowned with rosemary, was received by the guests with great respect, all standing when it was brought in.

The custom of carol-singing is thought to date back as far as the second century. The word "carol" means a song of joy. In Holland we find, in addition to carol-singing, the pretty custom of carrying round from door to door a star representing that which once guided the Magi. Those who gaze on the star give the young men who bear it alms for the poor.

As we thus glance at the various ways in which men in all circumstances have celebrated the birthday of the Son of God, do we not see that there is a blessed bond of sympathy amongst them all, a bond between the child rejoicing over its Christmas-tree and the unknown believers who sang the first carol long, long ago; the bond of a common belief that the Babe of Bethlehem holds the sceptre of the world. Our thoughts fly to the lowly manger where, drawn by Divine love, all nations, peoples, tongues meet to exclaim, in words whose complete fulfilment we see not as yet: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

THE CHRISTMAS-TIDE.

Of all the days in the year there is but this one that awakens a common interest among the people of all Christian nations. The nations have their separate special days celebrating particular events in their own history. But these days have no particular interest to the people of any other country. But here is one day of the year, the holy Christmas-tide, which belongs to all Christian nations and to all the world alike. Let the day be kept with holy merriment and universal joy. Let grateful mirth be mingled with happy song, and let every heart awake to gladness for the birth of the holy Babe of Bethlehem.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

DAINTY little stockings
Hanging in a row,
Blue and gray and scarlet,
In the fire-light's glow.
Curly-pated sleepers
Safely tucked in bed;
Dreams of wondrous toy-shops
Dancing through each head.

Funny little stockings,
Hanging in a row,
Stuffed with sweet surprises
Down from top to toe.
Little sleepers waking;
Bless me, what a noise!
Wish you Merry Christmas,
Happy girls and boys!

"MAKE IT LOOK LIKE ONE."

NED had a watch, a very good one, though a little old-fashioned. There was one thing about it which displeased him; it was a key-winder, and all the rest of the boys carried stem-winders.

"Why, Ned," said father, "every jeweller says key-winders are the most reliable and durable. Besides, there is no such solid gold in any watch-cases in your school."

But Ned insisted, and father consented for him to take it to the jeweller and have a stem-winding attachment put in. He came back with a doubtful look on his face.

"Father, Mr. Smith says he can't change the watch to a stem-winder, but he can make it look just like one."

"And you told him no?"

"I—I—"

"Want your watch to lie? I want my boy to understand, if he never learns another lesson, the difference between seeming to be and being. And I want him to understand that the bane of society is the contemptible people who are always trying to appear what they are not."—*Guide*.

THE CHRIST CHILD.

THERE came a little child to earth,
 Long ago;
 And the angels of God proclaimed his birth,
 High and low.
 Out of the night so calm and still,
 Their song was heard,
 For they knew that the child on Bethlehem's
 hill
 Was Christ the Lord.
 Far away in a goodly land,
 Fair and bright,
 Children with crowns of glory stand,
 Robed in white;
 In white more pure than spotless snow;
 And their tongues unite
 In the psalm the angels sang long ago,
 On Christmas night.
 They sang how the Lord of that world so
 fair,
 A child was born,
 And that they might a crown of glory wear
 Wore a crown of thorn,
 And in mortal weakness, in want and pain,
 Came forth to die,
 That children of earth might forever reign
 With him on high.
 He has put on his kingly apparel now,
 In that goodly land;
 And he leads to where fountains of water
 flow,
 That chosen band.
 And forever there in garments fair
 And undecayed,
 Those ransomed ones his praise declare,
 Who once was a child.

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

B.C. 1312] LESSON XII. [Dec. 23.
 RUTH'S CHOICE
Ruth 1. 16-22. Comm. to memory vs. 16-18.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Thy people shall be my people, and thy
 God my God. *Ruth 1. 16*

OUTLINE.

1. The voice of love.
2. The voice of woe.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

When was there a famine in Canaan? In
 the time of the judges.
 Who went from Bethlehem to live in
 Moab? The family of Elimelech.
 Who died in Moab? Elimelech, and his
 two sons.

Who were left to Naomi of all the family?
 Orpah and Ruth, her daughters-in-law.

What did Naomi say she would do? Go
 back to Bethlehem again.

Who begged to go with her? Orpah and
 Ruth.

Why was Naomi unwilling? Because
 they would have to leave their own home
 and friends.

Who refused to leave her mother? Ruth
 What did Ruth say? "Thy God shall be
 my God."

Why did this make Naomi happy? Be-
 cause she loved Ruth.

What do Christians want to see others
 do? Love and serve the true God.

How can Christians help others to love
 God? By loving him themselves.

What had come upon Naomi? Great
 trouble.

What great good came out of the trouble?
 Ruth learned to love and serve God.

Who can turn trouble into blessing? The
 Lord.

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

<i>A loving heart</i>	<i>A selfish heart</i>
Clings to friends.	Thinks about its own pleasure.
Tries to comfort them.	Forgets friends in trouble.
Is glad to follow them.	Chooses to go its own way.
Wants to be taught by them.	Thinks it knows the best way.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The love of
 Christ.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

Who was the apostle John? The disciple
 whom Jesus loved, and who leaned on his
 bosom at the last supper.

TEMPERANCE LESSON.

B.C. 1491] [Dec 30
 Num. 6. 1-3. *Commit to mem. vs. 3.*

GOLDEN TEXT.

For he shall be great in the sight of the
 Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong
 drink. *Luke 1. 15.*

OUTLINE.

1. Separation from sin.
2. Consecration to God.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

Who gave laws to govern Israel? The
 Lord.
 To whom did he give them? To Moses.
 To whom did Moses then give them? To
 the Israelites.
 What law is given in this lesson? The
 law of separation.
 What was one called who separated him-
 self to one Lord? A Nazarite.
 What did a Nazarite make? A vow.
 What is a vow? A solemn promise.

What did he promise not to drink? Wine
 or strong drink.

What did he promise not to eat? Grapes
 in any form.

How long did the vow last? A week, or
 a month, or a whole life-time.

What noted men were Nazarites all their
 lives? Samson and John the Baptist.

What is caused by strong drink? Great
 misery and crime.

What is a safe rule for Christians? "Touch
 not, taste not, handle not."

Who alone are truly separated to the
 Lord? Those who obey him.

What has God said about wine? "Look
 not upon the wine."

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

"Wine is a mocker."
 Satan uses wine as one of his agents.
 He says that it is a pleasant, harmless
 drink.
 He says that a little can not do any harm.
 Do not let Satan deceive you.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Temperance.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

Who was St. Thomas? An apostle, who
 at first did not believe that the Lord had risen.

A WARNING TO THE YOUNG.

It is often worse to read bad books than
 it is to keep company with bad boys.
 Actions grow out of thoughts, and a bad
 book can in a few minutes damage us
 forever.

One of England's greatest and best men
 says that, when a boy, another boy lent him
 a bad book for just fifteen minutes. It sent
 a deadly dart to his soul. He never could
 get away from the vile impression made
 upon his mind by that book in so short a
 time. He shed many bitter tears over it,
 and tried to forget it, but the shadow
 lingered. God forgave him, but he could
 not tear from his soul the memory of that
 evil book.

My young friends, if you will hear the
 voice of age and wisdom, do not read bad,
 trashy books and papers. They feed unholy,
 lustful thoughts, and lure to dark deeds.
 They poison the mind and corrupt the
 morals. They are worse on the soul than
 liquor is on the brain. If you fill your
 mind with rubbish of nonsense and the filth
 of vile thinking, there will be neither room
 nor relish for the choice gold of truth and
 the diamond-dust of pure thought. In the
 Bible you will find the loftiest sentiments
 expressed in a clear and captivating style.
 It is a fountain of pure thought and clear
 English. Read it much, love it more, and
 live out its blessed teachings forever.—*Ann.*



SANTA CLAUS ON HIS TRAVELS.

BABY'S STOCKING.

HANG up the baby's stocking,
Be sure you don't forget!
The dear little dimpled darling!
She ne'er saw Christmas yet.

But I've told her all about it,
And she opened her big blue eyes,
And I'm sure she understood me,
She looked so funny and wise.

Dear, dear! what a tiny stocking!
It doesn't take much to hold
Such little pink toes as baby's
Away from the frost and cold.
But then for the baby's Christmas
It never will do at all;
Why Santa Claus wouldn't be looking
For anything half so small.

I know what we will do for baby;
I've thought of the very best plan;
I'll borrow a stocking from grandma—
The longest that ever I can—
And you'll hang it by mine, dear mother,
Right in the corner, so,
And write a letter to Santa,
And fasten it to the toe.

Write. "This is the baby's stocking
That hangs in the corner here,
You never have seen her, Santa,
For she only came this year;

But she's just the blessedest baby,
And now before you go,
Just cram her stocking with goodies,
From the top clear down to the toe."

SANTA CLAUS ON HIS TRAVELS.

HURRAH! here's old Santa Claus himself
with his sleigh laden with dolls and toys
and trinkets for the young folk's stockings.
It is a cold night to be out, but he does
not mind the cold; and the moonlight on
the snowy road, and branches of the trees,
and tops of the houses, makes the whole
world look as if it were made of silver. His
tiny reindeer have a long journey to go
before morning; see how he cracks his long
whip, and shouts his merry shout. What joy
his visit will bring to thousands of little
curly heads, in a thousand of happy, homes
beaming of Santa Claus and his gifts. But
his shou'd be a time for giving, as well as
receiving gifts. If you know any little boy
or girl who has got no gifts at this happy,
thankful season, will not our little SUNBEAMS
share their gifts with them?

A BOY who has learned that it is manly to
be tender to the weak is rarely a coward,
for the strength and courage of his nature
are developed by teaching him to protect
those who cannot defend themselves.

A CHILD'S REASON.

'Twas Christmas week, the wintry light
Faded to darkness dull and drear;
"These are," I said, half to myself,
"The shortest days in all the year."

Across our darling's childish face
Passed the quick shadow of a thought,
Then suddenly she brightly smiled,
As though she found the things she sought,

And said: "I know the reason why;
It's cause the little girls like me
Wish it was Christmas, so the Lord
Makes the days shorter purposely!"

DON'T LET IT PASS.

Don't let the old year pass away without
a direct appeal to your scholars upon the
subject of their personal duty to God. This
is the month when the Christmas-glory
descends again from the skies, and covers
the hill-tops of Bethlehem. Heaven reaches
down to earth. The mind of youth is tender,
like the soil softened by the rains of spring.
Then the old year is about to give way to
the new. It is a moment when the soul
re-travels the paths of the past, and there
is regret for wanderings. It is a time when
the soul confronting the future, with all its
possibilities of loss, trial, sickness, and death,
shrinks from the unknown country. Heaven
comes near, and beckons with its lights,
while earth has its wakings. At this im-
pressive juncture of God's providences, at
this turning-point in the way, with wise,
tender, faithful appeal may you meet your
class. Your words may be like the angels
meeting them in blessing.—*Sunday School
Journal.*

THE STAR OF THE EAST.

THE night when Jesus was born in
Bethlehem, a star of unusual brilliancy
appeared in the distant east, and the wise
men or heathen sages came, by its direction,
to pay their homage to the new-born babe.
This star led them to where the young child
was, and, having found him, they presented
gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.
This star is truly typical of the Saviour
himself. He is the bright and morning
star which has arisen to guide the Gentiles to
the knowledge of salvation. It goes before
men to lead them through the darkness of
this world to the palace of the Great King.
This star shines brighter than any other, and
so Christ shines brighter in his life than all
other men. He is light, and in him is no
darkness at all. If men follow his light
they will find peace and safety.