

NEW YEAR GREETINGS

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By E. O. BELLERS, Acting Director of the Sunday School Course of the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.

LESSON FOR DECEMBER 26

JEHOVAH'S GRACIOUS PROMISES TO ISRAEL (REVIEW).

LESSON TEXT—Hosea 14. GOLDEN TEXT—Jehovah is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abundant in loving kindness.—Psa. 103: 8, 9.

The burden of punishment descended upon Israel, not because of the vindictive character of Jehovah, but because of the persistent pursuit of sin on the part of the nation.

The lessons of the past quarter extend from the latter days of Elijah, about 906 B. C., to the fall and captivity of Israel (the northern kingdom) B. C. 722 (Beecher), a period of 180 years.

A good method of review would be to have assigned to different scholars or classes each of the foregoing personages and to give a report of his chief characteristics.

Lesson I. The weak King Ahab (strong in his perversity) is easily persuaded to do evil in order to gratify his covetousness.

Lesson II. The veteran champion Elijah is about to go home and his more youthful follower, Elisha, has one chief desire (see II Kings 2: 8), which persistently followed is abundantly rewarded.

Lesson III. The stricken soldier, Naaman, at a child's suggestion, appeals to God's prophet, Elisha, for healing.

Lesson IV. The servant of Elisha is very much excited. King and camp are in despair, yet the prophet is not disturbed.

Lesson V. The faithful priest preserves the rightful king, Josiah, and makes a covenant between him and the Lord.

Lesson VI. Again refers to the good king, Josiah. The neglected temple is restored and refurbished through the liberality of the people.

Lesson VII. This is the lesson which is chronologically out of order, but is used for its temperance application.

Lesson VIII is the foreign missionary lesson. Jonah's life story is not a flattering one, yet when he faithfully proclaimed God's word it wrought a marvelous transformation in great and wicked Nineveh.

Lesson IX presents Amos, the sturdy prophet of civic and moral righteousness, the great messenger of the "rightness" of things (Amos 5: 14).

Lesson X. Uzziah is that king who could not withstand prosperity and who, in the development of his pride (II Chron. 26: 5, 16), assumed to disobey the word of God and brought upon himself a sad punishment.

Lesson XI. Enter Hosea. Let the entire school state the message of the prophet to the people of Israel, "I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely" (Hosea 14: 4).

Mr. Spurgeon once saw a weathercock bearing the motto, "God is Love."

A friend replied, "No, but which ever way the wind blows, God is love."

The Old Year and the New

By HARLOWE RANDALL HOYT

THE New Year comes. The Old Year goes. Adown the pathway of the years, bent beneath his pack of joys and woes, Of Junetide smiles and April tears, Across the fields with snowdrift white, The Old Year passes on tonight.

TWELVEMONTH past we welcomed him. A New Year he, one year ago, But now his eye is weak and dim, He totters on with footstep slow, His voice, complaining on the breeze, Comes in the groaning of the trees.

WE watched him grow. The wintertime ebbed into spring, and summer, then We saw him pulse with virtue pride When autumn fields were ripe again, And now, we view him at the last, Nipped by December's chilling blast.

WELL, let him go. His race is run. He was a goodly Year, indeed, So let us toast him, every one, And bid the wanderer "God-speed" Old Year, a final health to you! You were a comrade, tried and true.

THE Old Year goes. The New Year stands Before the door and waits us here. Ho, bring him in with welcome hands, The Year is dead! Long live the Year!

Happy New Year The following New Year wish is ascribed to Goethe. Health enough to make work a pleasure. Wealth enough to support your needs. Strength enough to battle with difficulties and overcome them. Grace enough to confess your sins and forsake them. Patience enough to toil until some good is accomplished. Charity enough that shall see some good in your neighbor. Cheerfulness enough that shall make others glad. Love enough that shall move you to be useful and helpful to others. Faith that shall make real the things of God. And hope that shall remove all anxious fears concerning the future.

When the World's All New. It is the same old world that we greeted on New Year's morning. But somehow it looked so different. The invisible dividing line between last year and this has made possible, a new angle of vision. The grip of old passions seems to have lost its hold and a new purpose, partly old, partly new, throbs for recognition.

JOKE VERY MUCH ON JIM As it Turned Out, Little Country Girl Was Not So Artless as She Seemed. It was a gay party of rollicking blades that went to the station the other afternoon to meet an incoming friend. They lined up outside the gates, scanning every face as the passengers from the just-arrived train came trooping through.

TURNING A NEW LEAF

By DeLysle Ferree Cass

ROGER FEATHERSTONE rose late on New Year's morning with the barest suggestion of a headache. That was the aftermath of the previous night's celebration, memorabilia of which were scattered all about the apartment in a weirdly incongruous way.

In the hazily-recalled grotesquerie of last night's homecoming, Roger had denuded himself progressively, beginning with his shoes at the door, his hat and waistcoat beside the dresser; trousers and linen at the foot of the bed, and, last of all, his scarf tied in a beautifully neat bow beneath the nob of the bedpost.

Roger sat up regarding all this whimsically for some time and wondering dully how it is that morning daylight always imparts such a haggard aspect to the rosy visions of the night before. He yawned and stretched prodigiously; then made a bound for the washbowl and immersed his head in gratefully cold and refreshing water from the tap.

"Reigh-ho! New Year's morning and my fortieth birthday all in one! The good Lord knows that I don't feel that old, but these periodic 'parties' sure are beginning to pall upon me.

After a display of Highland dancing the alarm is sounded, and the second oldest soldier, arrayed as Father Time, approaches. The veterans then retreat, leaving their honors to be guarded by their successors, and Father Time expels the Druid.

Roger sat up. He had married Phil Barnes and taken out of the merry whirl of things as jolly a chap as ever. "Hello! hello! Yes, this is Roger talking. Oh, I thought it might be you, sis. Why, so-o-o! I've no particular appointment for tonight.

and then hugged the astonished young fellow with naive unreserve. "Oh, Jack!" she cried, "I'm so glad to see you again!" and hugging him again, backed off to get another look. Then, as she gazed upon Jim, standing there grinning with delighted embarrassment, the mistake dawned upon her.

NEW YEAR "NEVER AGENS"

Suggestions for Husbands, Wives and All Lovers, Married or Single, That Are Timely.

If you haven't thought up any, here are a few timely suggestions: For hubby: Never again to spend a moment out of the presence of the wife unaccompanied by a trustworthy guardian appointed by her, who will report faithfully all of your doings, even to the irrefragable quiver of an eyelash, or the drinking of soda instead of buttermilk.

Never again to be such a brute as to want to stay at home when the wife wishes to go out, or to wish to go out—by yourself—when wife desires you to stay at home in the bosom of your family.

Never again to growl, grumble or swear, or pretend to be asleep when the wife pokes you in the back and asks you to walk with the baby in the middle of the night.

Never again to forget to peck wife on the cheek upon leaving her in the morning and coming home at night, to tell her that her frightful new bonnet is a perfect gem, and that her "fourteen-year-old" short dress is altogether too old-looking for her youthful figure.

Never again to come to the table with hair in curlers and wearing a soiled kimono. Never again to subject pa to spells of lachrymose reproaches, telling him that he doesn't love you any more.

Never again to spend the sweats of young lover souls in cheap flirtations when there is such a world of real happiness at your command.

Never again to become insensible to the delicious tremblings and flutterings of your own heart, or to become lax in all of those lovely attentions and girings that help to keep a keen response a-thrill in the heart of the beloved.

confusion and was lost in the throes before the lucky Jim had time to recover himself and offer to help hunt Cousin Jack. Jim's companions were loud in their expressions of envy.

Good-by, Old Year!

GOOD-BY, Old Year! With words of grace, Leave us with him who takes your place, And say, Old Year, unto the New, "Kindly, carefully, carry them through. For much, I ween, they have yet to do."

They were young as April as they pressed close to a window full of wonderful confections.

"What bad habits are you going to give up this New Year?" he asked. "You," she answered briefly; "what bad habits are you going to give up?"

"Very well, then, go in and buy me that heart-shaped box of candy." And both New Year resolutions went the way of their kind.

Another year has joined his shadowy fellows in the wide and voiceless desert of the past, where, from the eternal hour-glass forever fall the sands of time.

"Some folks say that mere words don't count," said Uncle Eben, "but do fact that some folks think enough of you to say 'Happy New Year' to you helps some."

Look to the Future. In reverent gratitude for the year gone, may we turn our faces toward the more blessed year to come.

Good Resolutions

New Year is the national payday in China. All accounts must be squared up at that time, and the man who can't raise money enough to pay his debts has to go into bankruptcy.

The Chinese paint the whole country red, figuratively speaking, on New Year's day, in more senses than one. Red is the color which with them denotes good luck and prosperity, and all the New Year cards and invitations are on paper of that color.

White crows in Illinois. White crows have recently been seen by Illinois farmers. Many of them are perfectly white without a single dark feather.

For People Hard of Hearing. The inventors have long promised a device which will do for the ears what spectacles do for the eyes.

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QUAINT SOLDIER CEREMONY

How Crack Scotch Regiment, the Seaforth Highlanders, Ushers in the New Year. The Seaforth Highlanders, one of Scotland's crack regiments now at the front, have one of the most peculiar New Year's eve customs of the whole British army.

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NEW YEAR'S DAY IN CHINA

Occasion When Whole Country is Painted Red—Time When All Debts Must Be Settled. New Year is the national payday in China. All accounts must be squared up at that time, and the man who can't raise money enough to pay his debts has to go into bankruptcy.

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