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BROOKLYN, N. Y., 1888.
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ELMWOOD, ILL., Nov. 20, 1888.

DR. B. J. KENDALL CO.
Dear Sir: I have always purchased your Kendall's Spavin Cure by the half dozen bottles. I would like to order in larger quantity. I think it is one of the best medicines on earth. I have used it on my stables for three years.

Yours truly,
CHARLES A. SYDNER.

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Dear Sir: I desire to give you my testimonial of my opinion of your Kendall's Spavin Cure. I have used it for lameness, stiff joints, and Spavins, and I have found it a sure cure. I cordially recommend it to all horsemen.

Yours truly,
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Manager Troy Laundry Stables.

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The Children We Keep.
The children kept coming, one by one,
Till the boys were five and the girls were three,
And the big brown house was alive with fun
From the basement floor to the old roof-tree;
Like garden flowers the little ones grew,
Nurtured and trained with the tenderest care;
Warmed by love's sunshine, bathed in its dew,
They bloomed into beauty, like roses rare.

One of the boys grew weary one day,
And leaning his head on his mother's breast
He said: "I am tired and cannot play—
Let me sit awhile on your knee and rest."
She cradled him close in her fond embrace,
She hushed him to sleep with her sweetest song;
And rapturous love still lighted his face
When his spirit had joined the heavenly throng.

Then the eldest girl, with her thoughtful eyes,
Who stood "where the brook and the river meet,"
Stole softly away into Paradise
Ere "the river" had reached her slender feet.
While the father's eyes on the graves are bent
The mother looked upward beyond the skies:
"Our treasures," she whispered, "are only lent,
Our darlings were angels in earth's disguise."

The years flew by, and the children began
With longing to think of the world outside;
And as each in his turn became a man
The boys proudly went from the father's side.
The girls were women, so gentle and fair
That lovers were speedy to woo and win;
And with orange blossoms in braided hair,
The old home was left—new homes to begin.
So one by one the children have gone—
The boys were five and the girls were three,
And the big brown house is gloomy and lone,
With two old folks for its company.
They talk to each other about the past,
As they sit together at eventide,
And say, "All the children we keep at last
Are the boy and girl who in childhood died."

—Anon.

The Sabbath-School.
INTERNATIONAL LESSON.

First Quarter—Lesson IV.—January 26

JOY OVER THE CHILD JESUS.—Luke 2: 8-20.

GOLDEN TEXT.—*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*—Luke 2: 14.

THE BIRTH OF JESUS THE CHRIST.
His Pre-existence (John 1: 1-3).
The Word, who became Jesus on earth, was with his Father in heaven from eternity. By him the worlds were created. He was with God, and was God.

His Earthly Parentage. The mother of Jesus was the Virgin Mary; but his father was God himself, through the Holy Ghost. His reputed father was Joseph, who became the husband of Mary. Both Joseph and Mary were direct descendants of David, of whose line the Messiah was to be. The genealogy in Matthew is that of Joseph, and that in Luke probably that of Mary; so that, both legally and really, Jesus was the son of David.

Appropriateness of the Place of His Birth. The mother of Jesus lived in Nazareth of Galilee, but the prophet had foretold that the Messiah should be born in Bethlehem, the city of David. Mark, then, the wondrous Providence of God, which brought Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem, through the census, or enrolment of the whole Roman Empire, just at this time.

Fitness of the Time. There has been no other time in the history of the world so perfectly adapted for the beginning of the new kingdom, and the spreading of the news of salvation throughout the earth, as that in which Christ was born. (1) It was after the Jews had received all that they would learn about God's kingdom, but before the destruction of the nation. (2) Nearly all the world was subject to the one government at Rome, so that the preachers of the Gospel could travel in safety, and be protected in their work. (3) The world was at peace, so that the Gospel could have free course. (4) The Greek language was spoken everywhere with the native languages, so that the Gospel could be heard and read by all. (5) The Jews had been dispersed through all lands, carrying the Old Testament, which bore witness to one God, and bled the prophecies of the Messiah. And they had established synagogues in almost every town, so that there was a place in which to preach the Gospel. (6) There was a widespread disbelief in the existing religion.

THE HEAVENLY MESSENGERS ANNOUNCING HIS BIRTH.—Vers. 8-12.
And there were in the same country.

In the fields near Bethlehem. The traditional place is about a mile from the town. *Shepherds abiding in the fields.* The sheep of Palestine are housed at night, only in the very coldest parts of winter, not always even then. The shepherds watch them at night, sleeping on the ground or on beds of branches. *Keeping watch over their flocks by night.* Thieves, wild beasts, and the dangers of the rough precipices form the chief reasons for a night-watch over the flock. *And, lo, the angel of the Lord, one sent from heaven, came upon them.* The word does not signify that the angel stood above them. It indicates a sudden but actual appearance. *And the glory of the Lord.* The radiant brightness, symbol and manifestation of God's nature. This accompanied the angel, and showed him to be the divine messenger. *And they were sore afraid, and the angel said.... Fear not.* The glad tidings of a Saviour, bringing light and love, and forgiveness of sins, can take away all fear from the soul. *I bring you good tidings of great joy.* The best tidings the world ever heard. To all people. All ages, nations, classes, colors. The gospel is as broad as the human race. *For unto you.* As representatives of all men. *In the city of David.* Bethlehem. A Saviour. One who should save them from their sins. "Jesus" means Saviour. *Christ.* "The Anointed One," the Messiah, whom they had long been hoping and praying for. *And this shall be a sign unto you,* that the words spoken were true; and a guiding sign, like the star to the wise men. *Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes.* Not garments regularly made, as with us, but bands or blankets that confined the limbs closely, and were intended to prevent distortion. Swathed in bands wrapped round and round, in lack of more comfortable clothing. *Lying in a manger.* The mangers are built of small stones and mortar in the shape of a box; and when cleaned up and whitewashed, as they often are in summer, they do very well to lay little babes in.

THE SONG OF THE ANGELS.—Vers. 13, 14. *And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host.* The veil between the seen and the unseen was rent, and the sky above Bethlehem was peopled with hosts of angels. *Praising God and saying, Glory to God.* The first thought of the angels, as of all good men, is God's glory, and thanks to him for "his unspeakable gift." *In the highest.* The plan of salvation through Jesus Christ manifests God's glory more than all the wonders of creation. *And on earth peace.* Jesus has brought peace to the earth,—peace between man and God, resulting in peace between man and man, and the soul's peace with itself and with its surroundings, and with the law of God,—peace such as the world cannot give or take away. This peace is the fruit of the Gospel in each soul that receives it, and the ultimate result of the Gospel in all the world. *Good will toward men.* What the world needed to know, was that God had good will toward all men; that the father loved his wandering prodigal children.

SEEKING AND FINDING THE SAVIOUR.—Vers. 15-20. *Let us now go.* Without delay. So should we ever seek the Saviour. They had such faith in the angel's message that they proceeded to investigate. So should all do who have heard others tell of this Saviour. *They came with haste.* We can never find the Saviour too soon. *And found everything as the angels had told them;* and they then knew that the angel's message was true,—the Saviour had come. Their faith and obedience met with a rich reward. *They made known.* They told those in the inn, and all they met, of the wonderful things they had seen and heard. The news was too good to keep; it belonged to the world. Whosoever has truly found the Saviour burns to "proclaim to all around what a Saviour they have found. *All they that heard it wondered.* They were astonished, and then many, doubtless, forgot all about it. They treated the good news as many now treat religion: they are interested in it, but do not seek for it as for hid treasures. *But Mary, in contrast with the others, kept all these things in her memory.* They were treasures whose value they followed years revealed to her. *Pondered them.* Comparing them with the promises of the Old Testament, and what had been announced to her. *The shepherds returned.* To their duty as shepherds, but with a new life and blessing in all their daily work. *Glorifying,* expresses the feeling of the greatness of the work. *Praising* refers to the goodness displayed in it.

PRACTICAL HINTS.

Jesus came in the best time in all history.

God's providence uses for the accomplishing of his own purposes the actions and plans of men who have other purposes in their minds.

The greatest blessings come to us while we are faithfully performing our daily duties.

God's special favors come to men without regard to class or outward condition.

If salvation by Jesus Christ is so important in the eyes of the angels, how much more should we value the salvation of our souls.

The greatest manifestation of God's glory, of his wisdom, power, love, greatness, is in Jesus Christ.

The only hope of peace is in Jesus Christ.

We should test by our own experience the truths that are told us about Jesus.

Our holy religious experiences should not keep us from our daily duties, but fill them with praise and love.

A Clock that Will Talk.

Inventor Edison has completed a phonographic clock which, instead of ringing out the number of hours, will announce the time of day in stentorian tones. It shouts out the time every quarter of an hour. As a novelty it is certain to take with the people. It will prove, also, a very good office clock, but as an ornament in the parlour, it is a serious question whether it will be a success, especially where young people are a feature of the household.

The young man calling upon his best girl on Sunday evening would probably receive a tremendous shock if he heard a gruff voice break in upon his loving whisperings with the announcement that it was "twelve o'clock." In a few moments the same harsh voice would croak the announcement, "quarter past twelve o'clock." That very nice young man would have no peace of mind till he made his escape from the house, as every quarter of an hour that clock could be counted on to shout. As an alarm clock, the invention is destined to triumph. It can be made to call a person at any hour of the day. Instead of setting up an unearthly clattering, as the present bell alarm clock now in vogue, it will, in a dignified and solemn manner, shout, "John, get up; do you hear me, John? Now, if you don't get up, I'll take the boot-jack."

As a kitchen clock the invention will be popular with all housekeepers. Mary, the cook, can be reminded that it is time to put the oat meal on, peel the potatoes, and warn her not to leave the fires too long in the oven. In many other ways it is expected that the clock can be relied on as a director and mentor in the household. It will be several months before the article is put on the market, and Mr. Edison feels quite confident of success, —*Inquirer.*

Speak Truthfully to Children.

Never threaten children with a punishment more severe than it is intended to inflict, with such phrases, for instance, as "If you do so-and-so I will cut your ears off," or similar absurd and barbarous threats. The child thus threatened will soon learn that his parent's words were false, and instead of promoting obedience they usually have the opposite effect. How often little ones are told dire falsehoods, as, if they are not quiet, "the black man will carry them off," or "the bears will eat them up," and many other equally senseless expressions, used to play upon their fears and frighten them into good behaviour. Under such training it will take but a little while for the child to learn to distrust such a parent, and the sweet confidence which should always exist between parent and child be broken. Perfect truthfulness should characterize all our dealings with children if we would have them become men and women who will be an honour to us, to their fellow men, and to themselves.

A Little Fun at Home.

Do not be afraid of a little fun at home. Do not shut up your house lest the sun should fade your carpets; and your hearts, lest a laugh should shake down a few of the musty old cobwebs that are hanging there. If you want to ruin your sons, let them think that all mirth and social enjoyment must be left at the threshold without when they come home at night. When once home is regarded as only a place to eat, drink and sleep in, the work is begun that ends in gambling houses and reckless degradation. Young people must have fun and relaxation; if they do not find it at their own hearthstones they will see it at less profitable places. Therefore, let the doors and windows be cheerfully thrown open in summer, and make home delightful with all those little arts parents so well understand. Do not repress the buoyant spirits of our children. Half an hour of merriment within doors, and merriment of a home, blots out the remembrance of many a cure and annoyance during the day; and the best safeguard they can take with them into the world is the influence of a bright home.

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