

SOME OF OUR YOUNG LETTER-WRITERS TELL
HOW THEY SPENT CHRISTMAS IN
THEIR PLACES.

"I am very happy in my home, and I like the two children, Charles and Wellington. I had a very happy Christmas and a happy New Year. I hung up my stocking the night before Christmas, and Santa Claus put into it some nuts and candies and a ten-cent piece. I thought that was quite nice.

"I am going to school now; we have a very pretty school-house, both inside and out, and a nice school-master, too. I like going to school very much; I have three-quarters of a mile to go there, but it is not far. I like Canada very much. I nearly forgot to tell you that I was in the second book. Give my love to all.

"ADA BRETON (aged 13)."

"I now take the pleasure of writing to you. I received the Christmas card you sent me, and the Scripture Union, and I was very much pleased with them.

"I like the UPS AND DOWNS, and my mistress likes it too. We could not do without it. I had a very nice Christmas. Santa Claus came to me and brought me a nice doll; it was dressed in a pink dress, and trimmed with ribbon, and he brought me a lot of other things.

"I am sure Dr. Barnardo must be very kind to the orphans to send them to Canada to such nice homes. I read a lot of letters in the UPS AND DOWNS about girls I know. It is very nice to hear of them. I am getting along very well; I am trying to be a good girl; the people are all very kind to me. I go to school every day. I like the school very much.

"We had a concert in the school-house. . . . We made twelve dollars. It is for our Sunday school. My mistress says I am a very good little girl, and says I am getting along very well.

"MARY SWEETING (aged 11)."

"I had a nice journey from Peterborough to Otterville, and I changed five cars, and I met Miss Loveday on my way. My master and my mistress are very kind to me.

"Our baby is grown; he is nearly five months old; he is a nice little boy; he has blue eyes, and his name is Herbert Kellett Parsons. I have a nice home, and I am going to try and keep it.

"I enjoyed my Christmas very much. I had my stocking full with Christmas things. I had my first ride in a cutter. We all went over to spend our Christmas at Mrs. Parsons' mother, where Kitty Lloyd lives. On Christmas eve there was an entertainment for the Sunday school children, and they sang, and then there was the Christmas tree, and Santa Claus came, and he gave me a bag of candies, and a box with a thimble in it. I go to the English Sunday school. I have some nice cards and papers from the Sunday school.

"My mistress is going to send me to the school when I get more useful. We have a farmyard; there is twelve cows, five horses, forty-two pigs, forty-five chickens, and one duck. I send my love to the girls, hoping they are getting on nicely. LILLIAN ALDRIDGE (aged 9)."

"I like my place very much indeed, and I am so thankful you got me such a nice place. My master and mistress are so kind to me, I would not like to leave them. I was glad to hear that you have got out a lot of girls. I have seen Mary, and I am so pleased to have a companion near me. We see each other every Sunday, and come home together. She came and spent an afternoon, and she told a lot about the Home.

"I was surprised to see my letter put in UPS AND DOWNS. I enjoyed Christmas very much. On Christmas eve I hung up my stocking, and next morning I found it quite full, and a parcel with it what Santa Claus brought me; it contained candies, nuts, orange, apple, and a long white boa. In the parcel there was a little piano, it has six keys, and on the lid there is some music, and I had a nice Methodist hymn-book and 25 cents, so I think I did very well.

"This was my first Christmas out to a place. Now, I think, this is all this time, so good-bye.

"KEZA SMART (aged 13)."

AN ACCOUNT OF OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL
CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT.

How eagerly we all looked forward to the time of our annual Christmas entertainment, which was held on the 30th of December. About 7.20 p.m. I went to the station to meet my friend, Miss Gibbs, whom I was expecting that night. I was not kept waiting long before the train came in. Then we, and Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey and the children went to the Methodist church, where the entertainment was to be held. At 8 p.m. sharp we all joined in singing a hymn; then our pastor, Mr. Wetherell, offered prayer. Then the children began the programme by singing a chorus:

"Hark! the bells are ringing gay,
'Tis the Eve of Christmas day,
Holidays have now begun,
Full of merriment and fun.
Merrily we pass our time,
Merrily as the Christmas chime,
May the coming New Year, too,
Be a happy one to you!" etc.

Then we had a number of songs and solos, recitations and dialogues; and three little girls sang a boat song, and they were rowing in a golden boat, which was a very pretty scene.

The church was beautifully decorated with evergreens, but the chief attractions were the two large Christmas trees, and also a log cabin with the old-fashioned fireplace in it, which was trimmed with evergreens and presents. The programme ended with an artificial snowstorm, while eleven little girls, who were very prettily dressed all in white, sang:

"Oh! see the snow is falling now,
It powders all the trees,
Its flakes abound and all around
They float upon the breeze.

'Tis snowing fast and cold the blast,
But yet, I hope 'twill stay,
Oh! see, it blows the falling snow
In shadows far away.

Santa Claus is here, we feel him near,
He's on his icy sleigh,
And covered deep the flowers sleep
Beneath their snowy bed.

Come out and play this wintry day,
Amidst the falling snow,
Come! young and old, fear not the cold,
Nor howling wind that blows."

Then the many beautiful presents were distributed among the scholars, and how true we found the words that Miss Gibbs said to me the next morning, just before she left, that "all good things must come to an end."

ANNIE ADDISON, Prince Albert.

IN LEISURE HOUR.

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES.

1. Santa Claus.
2. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.
3. Merry Christmas.

1. Happy New Year.
2. Plum pudding.
3. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

The first three are answers to puzzles contributed by Bea Jones, the last three by Edith Hallendale.

Answers are acknowledged from Edith Vincent, Annie Addison, Sarah Darbyshire and Alick Walder.

PUZZLES.

Jane Jeffrey sends the following:

BURIED NAMES.

1. A loyal man is a good citizen.
2. T. Eaton is a flourishing retail store.
3. The morning races were the best.

PUZZLE.

If the B m t put some: but if the B.

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From Alice Walder:

Scripture drop-vowel from Proverbs.

B. .stn.tthys.lf.ft.m.rr.wf.rth..kn.w.stn.twh.t.
d.y.m.ybr.ngf.rth

GIRLS IN INDIA.

All girls in India are very fond of pretty and bright-colored dresses. The dress is simply five yards of muslin. When only three or four years old a little girl begins to learn how to wind it gracefully around the body and over the shoulder. When she goes into the street she slips one end over the head as a veil. A little short sleeved jacket is the only other garment she wears. This is a very cool and comfortable costume for the hot climate.

Every family has a jewel-box full of little "cubby-holes" for each ornament. This is often buried in the mud-floor of the woman's inner apartment. If you want to see their jewelry you must make an appointment beforehand, so that they can dig it up.

Once in eight days the girls and women wash and comb and oil their hair, and have it nicely braided. They also take off and brighten the jewelry at this time. They would rather starve than give up their jewelry, they are so fond of it. The poorest people make theirs of tin, brass, lead and glass, and sealing-wax and shells.—*Over Sea and Land.*

FIVE O'CLOCK TEA.

Miss Tabitha Tid and Miss Mewsie Grim
Are taking tea with Miss Martha Brim;
And over their tea, in the usual way,
They're talking scandal, I need not say.

"Mrs. Tom of herself should be ashamed—"
"Miss Kitty Purr is much to be blamed—"
And most likely the people that they condemn
Are sitting at tea and talking of them.

—SEL.

* * *

AT RECESS.

They sat, the little Primer Class,
Beneath the lilac tree;
Said Emily, "My Uncle John
Is rich as rich can be.
He owns one house twelve stories high,
That looks as if 'twould touch the sky!"

"And I've a cousin," Rosa said,
"My grown-up cousin Grace,
Who has a light pink velvet gown
Trimmed round with lovely lace;
She wears it with pink shoes, and in
Her hair a splendid shining pin."

"And I," poor little Bess began,
And knew not what to say;
"And I"—a glad thought lit her face
Like sunshine in the May—
"I have a sister who has wings,
And lives in Heaven, and flies, and sings!"

Loud rang the teacher's warning bell,
And from the lilac tree
They went back into school again,
The Primer Class of three;
And not one of them all could tell
The proper way to BAKER spell.
—*Marion Douglas, in Little Men and Women.*

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CRADLE-SONG AT TWILIGHT.

The child not yet is lulled to rest.
Too young a nurse, the slender Night
So laxly holds him to her breast
That throbs with fight.

He plays with her, and will not sleep.
For other playfellows she sighs;
An unmaternal fondness keep
Her alien eyes.

—*Alice Meynell, in Saturday Review.*