

Christmas Morning.



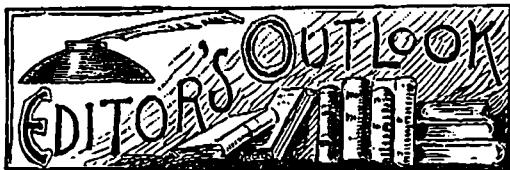
Christmas Night.

Christmas Question.

What mean the glorious tidings
That reach from shore to shore,
At the time of "Merry Christmas,"
Each year as years before?
What mean the joyous voices,
Resounding o'er the earth?
The Christian world rejoices
For Christ the Savior's birth.

The Holy Child of Promise,
The good and perfect man,
The Savior, Guide, and Teacher,
To follow if we can—
The typical humanity
To show us the true way
To rise above earth's vanity
And live in endless day.

With faith in the power of goodness—
The Christ in every soul—
Let us be glad for Christmas
When love assumes control;
When people wake from dreaming,
Wake to life at Christmas time,
Wake to truth that is redeeming—
Christ-power, O truth sublime!



THE OLD AND THE NEW.

THIS number of the Massey's Illustrated closes the first volume of the new series. We have endeavored to the best of our ability to make the magazine a welcome visitor to the homes and fire-sides of its thousands of readers and we have time and again received gratifying assurances that we have not labored in vain and that its merits have been fully recognized and appreciated. We have no hesitation in saying that it is the best and cheapest Illustrated monthly of "News and Literature for Rural Homes" published in Canada. It will scarcely be believed, but still it is a fact, that in the first volume about 350 high class engravings have appeared, equal, if not superior, in merit and interest to those appearing in much higher-priced magazines published in Canada and the States. What we will do in the future remains to be seen. One thing is certain; our readers may rest assured that none of the departments will be allowed to deteriorate in interest but that we will strive in every possible way to make each and all more and more creditable, instructive and entertaining. We cordially thank our numerous friends—readers, subscribers, and canvassers—for their kindly help in the past and we know that we can confidently rely upon their generous support in the future. We have given practical and substantial proof of the fact that those who canvass for us are amply compensated for their labor and the same liberal policy will be continued. With us "there is no such word as fail." And now as the old year ends and the

new begins, we heartily extend to our friends in this and every land the compliments of the season.

THE numerous friends of Mr. Fred. V. Massey will regret to hear of his serious illness. He contracted a severe cold while on his way from Toronto to Boston, Mass., in September last, to attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He worked very diligently at his studies, and passed his examination most creditably, notwithstanding the fact that he could not shake himself free from the cold and violent cough which followed. On Wednesday, 27th November, he consulted a specialist in throat troubles, who advised him to give up his studies, and seek a more congenial climate. He left Boston for Lowell that day to visit Rev. W. T. Pearin, and while there he had a spell of bleeding from the mouth and nose. One of the best local physicians was summoned, who, after a careful examination stated that there was no immediate danger, but advised him to remain as quiet as possible in bed, for at least two weeks.

THE attention of our readers is drawn to our clubbing list on page sixteen. Any one wanting to subscribe for two or more of the papers therein mentioned, with Massey's Illustrated, will be furnished with the clubbing price on application. We would also draw attention to the fact that we are offering five cash prize competitions, open to all readers of the Illustrated, and also \$100 in cash prizes to canvassers, besides premiums. Intending subscribers have only this month left them to obtain the privilege of guessing on the number of s's on page six of the January issue for the elegant Toronto Mower, Sharp's Rake, etc., full particulars of which will be found on the back page of the cover. Our canvassers should not stop until every farmer in their locality is a subscriber to the Illustrated.

AN independent paper in Toronto, last month announced, semi-officially, that the Ontario elections would be held before Christmas. This was afterwards contradicted by the Government organ. It is the general belief, however, that the elections will take place immediately after the next session of the Legislature. We may also state that the Dominion Parliament will meet for the transaction of business on January 16th. So far as the Dominion is concerned it is thought there will not be an appeal to the electorate for a year or two yet.

WE all owe an apology to the pig, who has been most grossly maligned in regard to his food. It has been proved that instead of being ready to eat anything that comes in his way, he is the most fastidious of animals. Experiments made both in France and Sweden showed that out of 575 plants the goat eats 449 and refuses 126; the sheep out of 528 plants eats 387 and refuses 141; the cow out of 494 plants eats 276 and refuses 218; the horse out of 474 plants eats 262 and refuses 212; while the pig out of 243 plants eats 72 and refuses 171. Who could have thought it?

OUR exportations of cattle and sheep are assuming large proportions. During the season just closed the number of cattle exported from the port of Montreal was 85,537 and sheep 58,877. For the season of 1888 the numbers were cattle 61,003, sheep 46,223. This shows an increase for 1889 of 24,534 cattle and 12,654 sheep. Another gratifying feature is the fact that better prices than formerly have been realized by the exporters. A revolution in the export cattle trade is likely to take place soon. A company has been formed in London, England, with a Canadian Board of management, with the object of developing the trade in Canadian dead meat. Three Rivers, Que., will be the Canadian headquarters. The live export trade is attended with so much loss, risk and expense that those engaged in the industry of cattle raising will hail with satisfaction the introduction of this new system which

will be found safer and more economical, and will materially help in developing and increasing that industry, besides making it more profitable.

MR. McMILLAN, representative of the Manitoba Government, will attend the Farmers' Institute meetings throughout Ontario during the winter and give information about the Province. He is in receipt of numerous enquiries from the States and the old country and the indications are that there will be as big a rush of settlers next spring as last. A colony from Virginia will settle in the Province next spring. Settlers there have had bad crops for the past two years and recently the State Board of Agriculture sent a deputation to the Western States and Manitoba with a view to settlement and they decided in favor of Manitoba. This is not to be wondered at. In Dakota and Minnesota thousands of families, through failure in crops, are destitute and appeals for aid have been made to assist in meeting the wants and alleviating the sufferings of the unfortunate people. Compare their condition with that of the settlers in Manitoba and the North West where an entirely different state of affairs exists. Settlers there, are as a rule, prosperous, contented and happy, and free from the privations and sufferings experienced by settlers in many States of the Union.

THE fact that many boys attending school are addicted to smoking is notorious. Recently an investigation into the matter was held in one of the large cities in the States and it was shown that almost fifty per cent. of the boys in the schools smoked tobacco. It was also demonstrated that the boys who smoked were the worst students. This was to be expected as no boy can use tobacco and be anything but dull and stupid. The growing person cannot use tobacco without paying the penalty in arrested physical and mental development. To many adults tobacco in any form is a poison. To the person who has not attained his growth the effect of tobacco is always injurious, and all the more dangerous because of its insidious effects. There are two ways of breaking up this dangerous habit among boys, and both remedies should be used at the same time. The dealers who are found selling or giving, or any person who sells, gives or in any way procures tobacco for boys should be severely punished, for the offence against society is as great as that of the persons who sell tainted and adulterated foods. As for the boys, every one caught smoking or using tobacco, or who has tobacco upon his person, should be arrested and punished. It should be an offence to send a boy into a tobacco store, or to allow one to enter such a place. The boys of to-day are the timber of which future citizens must be made and the health of that timber should be protected and preserved at all hazards and from all sources of danger.

OUTBREAKS of diphtheria, typhoid fever, and other infectious diseases are occurring repeatedly in our country districts and people are often at a loss to account for them. There is nothing very mysterious about the matter. Fraenkel, the eminent scientist, found by experiment that the top layers of the soil are especially rich in disease germs, but that below three or four feet the number becomes much smaller. The most interesting fact is, however, that the more injurious germs, as those of typhoid fever, lockjaw and cholera, rarely get to a depth of more than thirty inches. Some of these germs, Fraenkel found, can live at a depth of from eight to twenty inches for more than five months, while the spores (germ-eggs) can live in the soil for a much longer time. Under favorable conditions these spores can develop in the ground into germs which are ready to attack men or animals at the first opportunity. For all practical purposes, however, one may as well get germs as spores into his system. Fortunately, the soil that harbors and nourishes these germs also destroys them, the chief causes of their destruction being the drying of the soil and the action of light. The more intense the light the greater its destructive action on germs. Regular cultivation of the soil, thereby exposing it to the light and causing drying