

## HAPPY NEW-YEAR.

THE Old Year has passed, with its joys and its sorrows;  
The New Year has come, with its hopes and its fears;  
And now, on its threshold of unknown to-morrows,  
Dear friends, we would wish you "a happy New-year."

We ask not for honour, we look not for treasure;  
These last but a moment, they soon disappear.

Though ours were silver and gold without measure,  
Oh, these could not bring us "a happy New-year."

We know not what cares may e'en now be before us;  
We know not what joy or what grief may be near;

We know not what voice may be missed from our chorus  
When next we shall wish you "A happy New-year."

But we know that the smile of our Father in heaven  
Brings sunshine to sorrow, dispels every fear.

He will not withhold who a Saviour has given;  
And, oh! may he send you "A happy New-year."

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## Pleasant Hours:

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLKS:  
Rev. W. H. WITHROW, D.D., Editor.

TORONTO, JANUARY, 13, 1853.

## THE SUNDAY SCHOOLS, AND MISSIONARY MEETINGS.

ALL over the country the missionary meetings are now being held. The late General Conference recommended, "That it be an instruction from this General Conference to all Superintendents of Circuits that they be required to promote, as far as possible by co operation with the Sunday-school officers, the formation, in connection with each Sunday-school, of a Juvenile Missionary Society in accordance with the principles and constitution of the Blake System above mentioned, or of some other approved system, for the collection of missionary money, the diffusion of missionary information, and the cultivation of a missionary spirit.

"Also that Superintendents of Circuits be requested to secure, as far as possible, the presence of the Sunday-school in a body at the missionary meeting, and their participation in its services by singing missionary hymns

and presenting their missionary offerings; in the firm conviction that such participation will increase the popular interest in those meetings, and will be of great reflex benefit to the schools."

We hope that this recommendation will be largely adopted. The most successful missionary meetings we have ever attended have been those where the Sunday-school scholars were present and took part by singing missionary hymns, and presenting their missionary offerings. The presence of the young folk will secure the presence of their parents and friends. A high degree of missionary enthusiasm is thus created, and the young are brought into sympathy with the grandest of causes. We have often felt pained at missionary meetings by the almost total absence of the young people as though it were no concern of theirs. As a result the older folk were frequently comparatively apathetic as well. In contrast with this is the story we have heard of a boy who was trudging through the mud to a missionary meeting. "Well, my little man," said the preacher, "where are you going through the mud?" "To the missionary meeting," was the reply. "What do you know about missions?" continued the preacher. "Oh, I have a share in the concern," the boy proudly replied. That boy as he grew up would feel an intelligent interest in all missionary subjects.

Now we want all our young people to feel that they "have a share in the concern." That they are helping along the good cause. That it is theirs as much as the older people's. And let superintendents and teachers arrange that the schools, as such, shall look forward to the missionary meeting and prepare for it, and help all they can to make it a grand success.

It needs to be continually repeated that the Sunday-school lessons need study, on the part of both teachers and scholars, quite as much, at least, as the week-day school lessons. In every well regulated family the parents see to it that the children study their common school lessons, and the young always get an inspiration from any interest shown by parents in their studies. The same is true of the Bible lessons, and surely parents are inexcusably remiss who do not see to it that these are studied. And as parents equally with their children need, and may be profited by, Bible study, it is at once becoming and beautiful that these lessons be studied together by all in the family. Here is a prime way of spending part of the long evenings.

EVERY family should have in it at least one copy every month of the S. S. BANNER, as a valuable, and, in our own schools, almost indispensable, help in studying these lessons. We, therefore, would impress upon pastors, superintendents, and teachers the importance and feasibility of accomplishing this. What a help it would be in the spiritual intelligence and enlargement of the Church! See to it, as a splendid good work with which to close the old year and open the new! Appoint a committee of active persons to canvass the congregation, and do it. Sixty five cents cannot be spent by each family to better advantage. Specimens free on application.

## LETTER FROM REV. THOMAS CROSBY.

Missionary at Port Simpson, Pacific Coast.

MY DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS,—You will be glad to know that we reached our mission home safely, and right thankful we were to be here. Our children found some parts of the journey very wearisome, but all enjoyed the kind welcome of the people and quiet of home.

I have made several visits to outposts since our return, making about 600 mile's journey in all, mostly by canoe. I hope you are all doing what you can to help us to get the mission steamer. We need it much, and I cannot get it built till I have money enough. I need at least \$1,000 more. I know some are busy. In Tilsonburg there is a little band of Christian boys who have agreed to give one-tenth of all the money they receive to God. One of them sent me a dollar lately to be used for the benefit of the Indians. And this was money that he had saved out of his own earnings.

We have heard too from the Queen's Avenue Sunday-school, London. Five dollars of "self-denial money" have been sent for the boat. Thirty-seven cents of this represents the careful earnings of a little boy eight years old who thought this the best way to invest his money. In Brantford also the boat has not been forgotten; some dear little girls there sends us the proceeds of a bazaar, \$16 35. I hope all the children of our Sunday-schools will do something for the mission ship.

I have just returned from a visit to Kit-a-Mat, 160 miles from Port Simpson, where I spent some days. We have had a little church here for several years, and a native teacher. The bell of their church was broken so they subscribed for a new one, blankets, articles of clothing, and various things made up the list. These people are poor, but many of them love the cause of God.

I was rejoiced, while saddened, to hear of several very happy deaths that had occurred among them. One little boy I must tell you about who died very happy under very trying circumstances. His name was We-nestle, which means "fighting black fish." His family were great fighters, and their crest was the black fish. His Christian name was Peter. His mother was a widow with but another child, a little girl, besides himself. They belonged to a heathen tribe, but came to live at Kit-a-Mat where the children attended our Mission school. Peter had been sickly, but was some stronger, and though only about twelve years old could use a gun very well. One day in winter he and his mother went some miles from home to hunt ducks. Ducks then were plenty, but they kept pretty well out of the way of Peter's gun. He had brought down only one when, as the Indians often do, they took some evergreen boughs and covered the canoe and themselves and floated on like a drifting tree. But the canoe was now top heavy, and at the next shot it capsized. The gun was lost, but Peter and his mother both managed to cling to the upturned canoe. The tide was rising and drifting them towards the shore, but the beach was a rocky one with no possible landing place. At last Peter saw a chance, and leaving the canoe swam to shore and scrambled on to the rocks,

but his mother was still on the canoe. And now Peter became terribly distressed about her, he ran to and fro on the bluffs through deep snow crying and praying for his mother while she was driven about in the surf. After several hours of this terrible suspense the mother, by a merciful Providence, was driven into a little nook in the rock-bound shore where she could get ashore. Her boy, now overjoyed to see her safe, exhausted with fatigue and excitement, ran wildly to the edge of the bluff, and then threw himself down to his mother's arms crying, "Oh, mother, mother, are you here! I am dying, but do not fear, I have prayed for you and God will help you," and then he expired. Here was the poor woman with her dead boy in her arms with no help near; the canoe was gone, night coming on bitter cold, the tide rising fast. She tore strips from her blanket and tied to the boys wrists, and holding these kept his body from floating away while she herself clung for her life to a projecting shrub on the side of the rocks. Here she spent a terrible night sustained only by her trust in God, a trust strengthened by the dying assurance of her boy. Morning came but no help; the tide fell and rose again, but before another night overtook her a passing canoe rescued the now exhausted woman, and she took her poor boy to bury him in the Christian village. Poor little Peter!

Dear young friends, have you the simple trust that this little boy had, and will you not do all you can to send the blessed Bible to those who have not heard it?

We have come to the long evenings. How shall they be spent? By all means at home, as a rule. Make the home comfortable, warm, light, cheery, happy; so much so that the young people will not be anxious to go elsewhere. Provide food for the young people's minds and for their right fancies and enjoyments, even more carefully than you do for their bodies. Have picture-books and papers, games and fun, as well as more sober reading and study. Let the elder members of the family enter into the feelings and fun of the younger ones, if the latter are to be expected to join in the more sober and instructive pastimes of the former. "Rejoice with them that do rejoice." "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others." "By love serve one another."—Augsburg Teacher.

FROM the fact that there were no Sunday-school Lesson Notes in the first number of HOME AND SCHOOL, some persons have thought that there would be none. They must have overlooked the explanation given in that paper, that the first number was published so long before the new year that it was impossible to insert in it the lesson notes, but that future numbers would have full lesson notes entirely different from those in PLEASANT HOURS or SUNBEAM.

THE Superintendent of a Sunday-school which distributes nearly a thousand periodicals monthly remarked to us the other day that he had found our Canadian Sunday-school papers to be cheaper and more satisfactory than any imported, and that he intended to give very large orders for them.—The Wesleyan, Halifax.