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**Pleasant Hours:**

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK.

Rev. W. H. WITHROW, D.D., Editor

TORONTO, DECEMBER 11, 1886.

**\$250,000**

FOR MISSIONS

FOR THE YEAR 1887.



IS FOR CHRISTMAS.

We are sure our readers will be pleased with the more clear and open appearance of the pages of PLEASANT HOURS. These are only specimens of the improvements we propose making from time to time. We intend to use, as our increased circulation will warrant the expense, better cuts and more of them, and cuts referring specially to Canadian subjects. This being the jubilee year of the reign of Her gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, we propose having a number of illustrated articles that will cultivate the loyalty and patriotism of all our young readers.

The *Methodist Magazine* also comes out in a handsome new cover, and presents for the year 1887 an announcement of unsurpassed interest. By condensing somewhat the printed matter, and adding a considerable number of pages, the amount of reading it will give will be increased by about 100 pages. It will have several articles of special interest to Sunday-schools—one

admirable one in the January number by the Rev. Dr. Carman, one of the General Superintendents, on the "Sunday-school as a centre of influence;" one by the Rev. J. Philp, M.A., on "Methodism and Sunday-schools;" valuable illustrated series on Bible Lands, and on mission work; numerous illustrated articles on Canadian life and scenery, by the Marquis of Lorne, the Editor, and others; and many other attractions too numerous to mention (See announcement on last page.) Several schools have for some years circulated from two to ten copies of the Magazine instead of Sunday-school libraries, as being fresher, more interesting, and more attractive. For this purpose the Magazine is given to schools at special rates, made known on application.

**CHRISTMAS TIDE.**

It is Christmas tide the world over. We celebrate this most joyous time of all the year in our most joyless and inclement season. Winter has thrown her icy mantle over us, and

"The sun comes late to the pallid sky,  
And does not come to stay;  
The snow gleams cold on the barren plains,  
The year is old and gray."

Perhaps to those who have earthly comforts, Christmas is all the more joyous from the contrast within doors and without, but to those who measure their coal by the peck, and through whose thin walls the cold wind fiercely pierces, there can be no great joy, even on the anniversary of our Saviour's birth. Had all who profess the name of Christ the true Christian spirit, there would be fewer of such unfortunates—less need to say, with Hood,

"Alas! for the rarity  
Of Christian charity,  
Under the sun."

But Christmas is not confined to our cold climate. Christmas will be celebrated all around the world where Christian missionaries have gone to tell the story of our Saviour's birth. Then forget not the brother upon whose hearth the fire burns low, who sees only his present misery—

"Even God's providence  
Seeming estranged."

Forget not the little children whose pinched faces tell of an age of sorrows. Forget not those who have gone to foreign lands to carry the good news of the gospel. Forget not those who are beginning to understand what it is to have a Saviour, and those who yet do not know of his wondrous love. Forget not the sinful, those in prisons, those sunk in sin, seemingly beyond redemption. Remember that for all of these Christ was born and died, as well as for us.

"Sound over all waters, reach out from all lands,  
The chorus of voices, the clasping of hands;  
Sing hymns that were sung by the stars of the morn,  
Sing songs of the angels when Jesus was born."

**OUR SUNDAY-SCHOOL PUBLICATIONS.**

The following letter on this subject has been received. I have just to hand some sample Sunday school papers from our Book Room in Toronto, and a few days previously some samples from an American publication. I consider our own papers far superior to the others, both in "make up" and "get up," that is, in the matter they contain, and the material and workmanship of the paper. In the editing of our Sunday-school papers, Dr. Withrow shows his eminent fitness for the position, in the variety, adaptability, and general usefulness of the interesting matter furnished in their pages. And our energetic Book Steward equally shows his qualifications for the position he holds, in the very elegant manner in which he gets out the papers.

Then the price, too, of our own papers, considering their size, is very low. I have often compared them with others, and find none cheaper.

Now, it does seem to me just carrying the thing a little too far for the agent of these American papers to send us samples of their papers enclosing another bundle, on the wrapper of which is printed the request to "Kindly hand to the Sunday-school superintendent." No, thanks; I respectfully decline the honour of acting as sub-agent in introducing these papers into our schools in preference to our own. Happily we are well furnished in this particular.

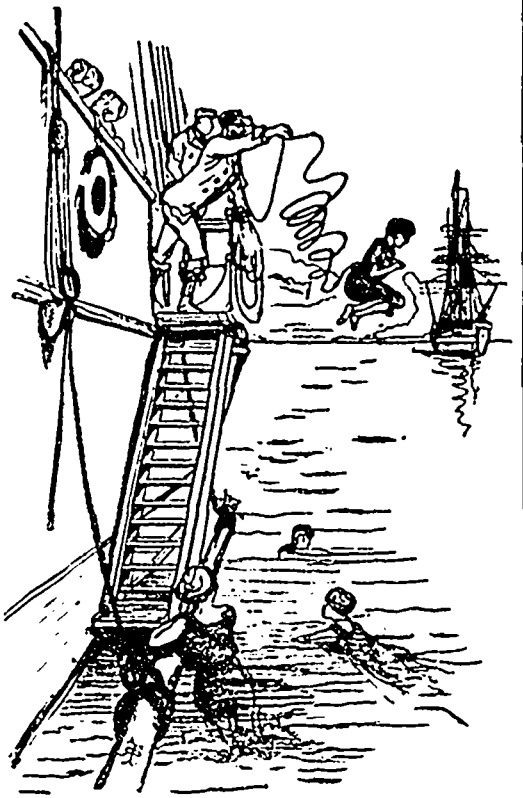
A LOYAL METHODIST.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of \$2.25 for the Crosby Indian Girls' Home, from a little girl in Chicago—Miss Fredda Smith. Received through W. G. Graham, Aurora. Other contributions for the same deserving object, or for the McDougall Orphanage, will be gladly received and forwarded.

*Into Unknown Seas; or, The Cruise of Two Sailor Boys.* By David Ker. New York: Harper Brothers. Price \$1.00.

*Silent Pate; or, The Young Stowaways.* By James Otis. Same publishers, and same price.

These books have both been devoured with fascinated interest by the many readers of that bright paper, *Harper's Young People*. They both abound more than sufficiently in adventure, but the second is more to our taste than the first. It has an element of pathos that is quite touching, and is not so sensational in character as the first. They are fresh, breezy books that will be read with avidity by all boys.



BATHING OFF THE YACHT "SUNBEAM."

In this year of special need will not all Sunday-schools fall into line, and each do something for the Missionary Fund? Many schools do nobly, but many others do nothing. This "ought not so to be." In accordance with the recommendation of the General Conference, let each Sunday-school be organized as a Juvenile Missionary Society. The income from this source is growing, but it might easily be doubled. Let our Sunday-school superintendents take hold of this matter, and see what can be done.—  
*Outlook.*

**BATHING OFF THE YACHT "SUNBEAM."**

This cut shows Lady Brassey's children at sea bathing off the yacht *Sunbeam*. Secured by a rope held in their father's hand, they leaped from the deck into the water and swam around like young dolphins. This is one of 90 beautiful cuts, kindly presented by Lady Brassey to the Editor of the *Canadian Methodist Magazine*, to illustrate a series of articles which will run through the Magazine for 1887, describing her adventures "in the Trades, the Tropics, and the Roaring Forties."

SIR WALTER SCOTT'S "Christmas in the Olden Time" has been chosen as the text for six and twenty illustrations by E. H. Garrett, Harry Fenn, J. Steeple Davis, G. A. Teal, Henry Sandham, Childo Hassam and H. P. Barnes, engraved under the supervision of Geo. T. Andrews, for Cassel & Company to publish. The book has a genuine Christmas flavour; we hear the big logs crackling on the hearth, and smell the savory plum-pudding as we turn the leaves of this attractive volume.