

## A SONG FOR OUR BOYS.

(For Recitation.)

LET those who will  
Go drink their fill  
Of ale, or beer, or wine, boys;  
'Twill better pay,  
I boldly say,  
To keep to water fine, boys.

With muddled head,  
In danger led,  
The toper comes to grief, sirs;  
But water bright  
Will keep one right,  
And strong is my belief, sirs.

Take every care,  
The foe beware,  
Refuse the tempting drain, sirs;  
True courage gain,  
Like men abstain,  
And steady keep the brain, sirs.

With heart of nerve  
Your country serve,  
Beat down the lust of greed, boys;  
'Tis not by gold,  
But purpose bold,  
The nation shall be freed, boys.

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## Pleasant Hours:

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLKS:

Rev. W. H. WITHROW, M.A., Editor.

TORONTO, JUNE 24, 1882.

## GOING FROM HOME.

MANY of the young readers of PLEASANT HOURS will be called in the providence of God to leave home, and go perhaps, to some distant town or city to attend school or college, or to engage in business. In leaving the parental roof and going among strangers, they will be exposed to many temptations, and will have need of much watchfulness. The very freedom from the wholesome restraints of home influence, and the fact that they may be where none know them are in themselves a temptation to a license from which they would otherwise shrink. A sense of loneliness, too, may lead them to seek companionship without carefully inquiring into its character. Now the first companionship of a young man in a strange place will largely mould his future, and may be decide his destiny. He will find many who will try to thrust their companionship upon him, and seek to tempt him to wrong-doing. They will invite him to the billiard room, the saloon, the theatre, and other places of immoral amusement. If he yield to these temptations, his moral nature will receive a shock from which it may never recover.

Our urgent advice to young people leaving home, is, to form improving

companionships. Get, if possible, from the minister of your old home, a note to the minister of your Church in the place where you are going. He will be your friend among strangers, he will introduce you to other friends, and you will soon find yourself at home among them. If you have not procured such a letter, go and call on the minister, he will be glad to see you; or speak to him after the church service. Above all do not fail to attend the Sunday-school. There you will feel most at home, among those who like yourself are young.

While writing the above we found in the London Recorder an advertisement, by the minister of the Old City Road Chapel, the mother church of Methodism, which says:

"Young Methodists coming from the country to live in London are cordially invited; they will meet with a warm welcome." Thus the old mother lovingly cares for her children.

The present writer while recently away from home in great cities among strangers, felt strikingly the warmth of Christian affection that glows in every Sunday-school. In hotels and boarding-houses you may receive civility, and even kindness. But when you make yourself known as a stranger in a Sunday-school you are received with brotherly love. There is a sort of Freemasonry about the institution that without the aid of signs or passwords makes you feel a brother's grip in the warm shake-hands that you receive.

Another invaluable institution in large cities is the Young Men's Christian Association. It is a grand thing for a young man to feel that in nearly all the cities of the world, he may find a band of brothers who will gather around him, direct him to a comfortable home, help him to obtain employment, and if sick or in trouble will help him. We have visited such associations in New York, Washington, Baltimore, Albany, Montreal, Liverpool, Edinburgh, and elsewhere, and were always received not merely with courtesy, but with Christian affection, and sympathy. There is nothing that so knits heart to heart the wide world over as love for a common Saviour, and love for his holy cause. While you have these in your hearts, young friends, though you may be far from home, you need never be lonely. You may find a band of brothers everywhere. Above all, keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life. Live near to God, and you may defy temptation. Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you.

## OUR PUBLISHING INTERESTS.

WE quote from the Guardian the following statement, with reference to the meeting of the Western Section of the Book Committee of our Churches:—

The reports from all departments of the Book and Publishing business show a steady and rapid increase. Last year the increase in sales and publishing work was so largely in advance that it did not seem probable there could be any great improvement this year. But there is a large increase on the business during the last year. Our publishing business has steadily increased, until our Book Room now does the largest publishing

business in Canada. The premises have been enlarged and improved, and yet there is not room for the increasing business. The circulation of the Guardian, Magazine, and other periodicals has increased during the year, and though still below what it ought to be, is nevertheless far in advance of the circulation of similar publications of any other Church in this country. Some idea of the extent of the work done in the establishment may be learned from the following statement:—

The total number of books bound in this establishment during the past year, 154,314; increase over last year, 20,000 copies; total number of tracts and pamphlets during the past year, 94,696; increase over last year, 28,000; total number Hymn Books sold during the past year, 88,356. These Hymn Books are included in the Books bound.

The above does not include the issues of the Guardian, Magazine or Sabbath-school papers. The combined issues of these periodicals amounting to 161,635 per issue, or the whole amount of 1,922,644, per year's issues. [The total number of printed pages issued has been over fifty millions, or over 150,000 pages a day. Of these over 50,000 are of Sunday-school periodicals.] The sales of our own published books, and the books purchased in England and the United States, have summed up to a figure far surpassing any former year. The Annual Meeting of the Committee was marked by great harmony and good feeling. A statement of the work of the last four years, presented by the Book-Steward, as the basis of a quadrennial Report for the General Conference, indicated most gratifying progress. A very cordial and appreciative resolution, expressing commendation of the fidelity and success of the Book-Steward and Editors, was unanimously adopted.

Among the contents of the Methodist Magazine for June, are the following: "Sea Side Pictures—The coast of Maine and Mount Desert" (illustrated). "The Land of Nile," (illustrated). "New Testament Certainties, or Something to Believe," Rev. W. Harrison. "Shakespeare's Religious Faith," Rev. James Awde. "The Martyr's Grave," Miss J. C. "Life in a Parsonage, or Lights and Shadows of the Itinerancy," Chapters xvi to xviii. "Jerusalem in the Time of our Lord," E. E. Hale. "The Approaching General Conference," David Allison, L.L.D. "The Need of the World," Dr. Nelles. "The Progress of Protestant Missions," Prof. Christlieb. "The Higher Life—Full Salvation, Holiness of Character, The Fulness of God." "Current Topics—The Lesson of the Census, Growth of American Methodism, The Union Movement," etc. "Religious and Missionary Intelligence—Dr. Nelles' Convocation Address," etc. "Book Notices—Kant and his Critics," etc.

The article on Egypt will be of special interest in the present distracted state of that country.

The July number will contain "Foot-prints of Bunyan," "Darwin and Darwinism," by Dr. Canniff; "Emerson," by Mrs. Dr. Castle; "A Visit to Ticonderoga," etc.

Price \$2 a-year; \$1 for six months; 20 cents per number. For sale by Wm. Briggs, and all Bookstores.



A PENN'ORTH O' GIN.

THE picture illustrates a very frequent and very sad scene in England. In many, perhaps most of the inns and refreshment stalls of that land, the bartenders are young women, and many of the customers are of the same sex. It must, we should think, be very destructive of self-respect in any young women to deal out liquor all day, often to a lot of rude and vulgar men, and to listen to their bold remarks and often insulting compliments. The poor haggard creature who has come in for her "penn'orth of gin" was once, perhaps, as handsome and well-dressed as the girl behind the bar; and the latter may perchance become as degraded, and lost as the poor wretch who seeks to appease the insatiable craving of appetite by that which has brought her to such ruin. Would that the accursed drink traffic with all its wretched accompaniments were swept from the face of the earth for ever.

WE have received from W. C. Hazelwood, Superintendent of Lakele Sunday-school and forwarded to the Mission Rooms, the sum of \$1.35 for Mr. Crosby's mission boat, being the amount of a collection taken up in the school after reading the article in PLEASANT HOURS on the mission boat. We shall be happy to receive other contributions for the same object.

THE success of PLEASANT HOURS has quite surpassed our expectation. We are now printing 28,000 copies, being 11,000 more than the 17,000 printed at this time last year. We hope still further to improve and to go up to forty or fifty thousand. We are also printing 16,000 of the Sunbeam; 16,000 of S. S. Quarterly against 8,000 last year; 42,000 Berean Leaves, and 12,000 Quarterly Review Service, being a large increase on former years, and constantly going up.

THE Quarterly Review Service, and Canadian Scholar's Quarterly, have both become very popular. The Review Service for June, is now ready, and will be mailed for 50c. per 100. The third number of the Quarterly, that for July, August, and September—20 pages—Map, Lesson Hymns, everything required, will be mailed for \$2 per 100.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.