

Farewell, Old Year.

FAREWELL, Old Year, we walk no more together;
I catch the sweetness of thy latest sigh,
And crowned with yellow brake and withered heather,
I see thee stand beneath this cloudy sky.

Here in the dim light of a gray December
We part in smiles, and yet we met in tears;
Watching thy chilly dawn, I well remember
I thought thee saddest born of all the years.

I know not then what precious gifts were hidden
Under the mist that veiled thy path from sight;
I knew not then what joy would come unbidden
To make thy closing hours divinely bright.

I only saw the dreary clouds unbroken,
I only heard the splash of icy rain,
And in that winter gloom I found no token
To tell me that the sun would shine again.

O dear Old Year! I wronged a Father's kindness;
I would not trust him with my load of care;
I stumbled on in weariness and blindness,
And lo! he blessed me with an answered prayer.

Good-bye, kind year; we walk no more together,
But here in quiet happiness we part;
And from thy wreath of faded fern and heather
I take some sprays and wear them on my heart.

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Home and School.

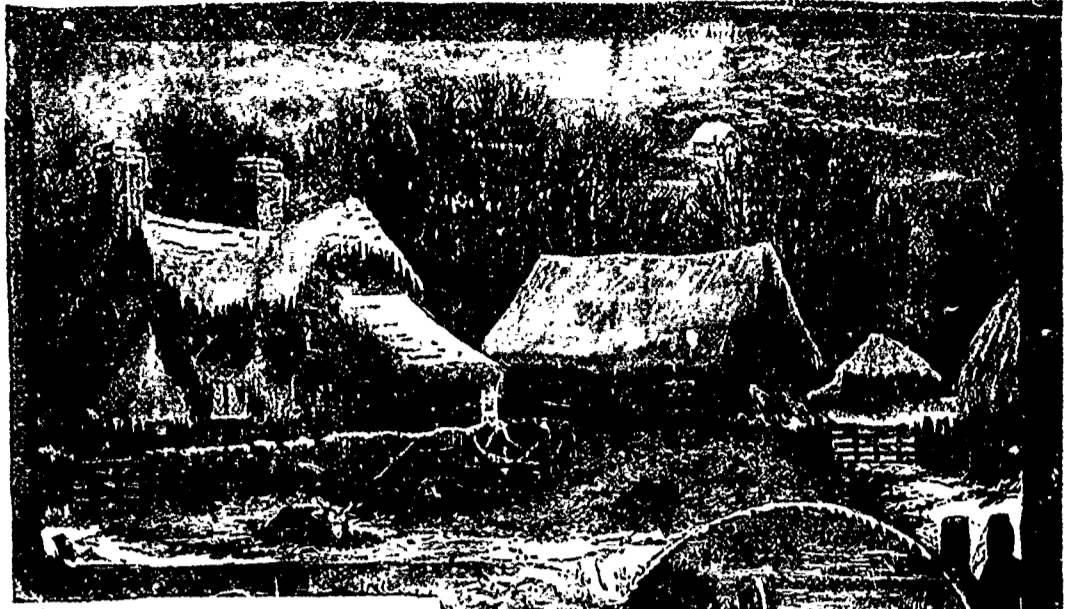
Rev. W. H. WITHROW, D.D., Editor.

TORONTO, DECEMBER 27, 1890.

Last Number of "Home and School."

THE pleasant intercourse which we have maintained for eight years with the readers of HOME AND SCHOOL has been to us a great pleasure, and—we have many testimonies—has not been without profit to our young friends. Although this paper ceases with this number its separate existence, it will re-appear in all its essential features, with many added improvements, with wider scope, superior illustrations, and better mechanical and literary make-up, in the new weekly paper, *Onward*. We hope to have the pleasure of addressing from week to week all the readers of HOME AND SCHOOL, and very many others, especially Sunday-school teachers, senior scholars, Epworth Leaguers, and young people generally, in this new organ. And by "young people" we mean not merely those who are young in years, but those whose hearts are young though their heads may be gray; those who are in sympathy and touch with young people, with their aspirations, with their ambitions and their Christian endeavours everywhere.

We shall not say "good-bye," as though this were the final parting, but we shall use the good old German phrase, "Auf Wiedersehen"—"to meet again." We hope that the new year, on which we



THE DYING YEAR.

Full knee-deep lies the winter snow,
And the winter winds are wearily
sighing;
Toll ye the church bell sad and slow,
And tread softly and speak low,
For the Old Year lies a-dying.

are entering, may be for each one of us a happier, better, and both spiritually and temporally, a more profitable one than any we have ever known.

To Schools Ordering Papers—How to Get the Most for your Money.

We strongly advise Sunday-schools ordering papers for 1891 to redistribute their order heretofore made for *Pleasant Hours* and *Home and School* as follows, viz.: To take three-fifths of *Pleasant Hours*, which will be published weekly, and two-fifths of the new weekly paper *Onward*, instead of equal numbers of *Pleasant Hours* and *Home and School*. For instance, if they have been taking twenty copies of *Pleasant Hours* one week and twenty copies of *Home and School* on alternate weeks, we advise that they take fifteen copies of *Pleasant Hours* weekly and ten copies of *Onward*, also weekly. They will thus get twenty-five papers of two different kinds each week for \$8.75, instead of twenty per week of the same kind for \$8.80, and will secure as well a greater quantity and much greater variety of reading, which will be moreover graded to suit the needs of the classes. They may order in the like proportion for any quantity greater or less than twenty.

Where *Home and School* has been already ordered for 1891, we will be happy to re-distribute the order in the above-named proportion, namely, three-fifths of *Pleasant Hours* to two-fifths of *Onward*, if so instructed. In the meanwhile, to schools not so instructing us, we will continue to send *Onward* once a fortnight in the place of *Home and School*, which now ceases to be published.

WILLIAM BRIGGS,

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HEAVEN leaves a touch of the angel in all little children, to reward those about them for their heavy cares.

Kissing Games.

THERE are certain frolicsome amusements practised by young people sometimes at socials and parties. Perhaps they fall under the general head of forfeit games. For instance, there is an elegant (!) one, during which the players sing: "Oats, peas, beans, and barley grows," and another, "Snap and catch 'em." Does one need to hunt long to find the evil in these? "Why! what's the harm?" exclaims some one. In the first place, most of these games are very rude and coarse. Take "Snap and catch 'em" for example. The young people (alas! I've known ministers with grey or bald heads to engage in the play) are standing in a ring while one of their number marches around, and presently "snaps" one of the members of the ring. And then begins a wild chase—the business of the one summoned being to catch the one who "snapped" him—or her. And when caught he—or she—must be kissed. What a spectacle that presents! what a violation of all the proprieties of civilized life this racing, clawing, tusselling is! It might do for our Norse ancestors, but how is it for the afternoon of the nineteenth century in the most advanced civilization the sun shines on? But the rudeness is not the worst part of it. After all, the improper relationship into which they bring the sexes is the worst mischief of these plays. The sad tendency is to break down in our girls the barriers of reserve and modesty and the sense of the sacredness of the body, which is most sedulously to be cultivated. What better calculated to undo in the minds of young men the lessons of chivalric honour and gentlemanliness taught by pure-minded mothers and noble-hearted fathers! When will all understand that promiscuous kissing is a profane practice? A kiss is a sort of sacrament—the sacrament of a holy affection. It is sacrilege to use it for aught else. That would be like taking the vessels from the altar of the Lord for the revelry of Balaam's feast. Using holy things profanely always results in disaster to some precious interest.—*Epworth Herald*.