

Let's play to-day
We choose the best,
Birds blue and true,
With dove-like breast!

'Tis queer, my dear,
We never knew
That words, like birds,
Had wings, and flew.

READING BETWEEN THE LINES.

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER.

A preacher went out to preach; and as he preached, some of his good words reached a number of boys; but they were thinking about their fun, and paid no attention. And when they got home they could not remember where the text nor the reading was, nor what the preacher had been saying. And so the preaching did them no good.

And some of his words reached some other boys, and they thought they would try and be good and religious, and would pray, and love Jesus, just as the preacher advised. But when, after two or three days, the other boys found out they would not bluster and fight, and use bad words, and do mischief at night, they began to mock them, and call them names, and work spiteful tricks on them. And the boys who thought they would be good, got angry, and seemed ashamed of being caught "being good," and in less than two weeks were just as bad as any of the other boys. They left off trying to follow Jesus, just because somebody laughed at them.

And some of the preacher's words fell among the men and women who were very full of business and cares. And the men said: "We must attend to our souls;" and the women said: "It is of more importance to be saved than to be fashionable." And the preacher thought there was going to be a great revival and many converts; for they began to come to the prayer-meetings, and some of them took pews in the church, and a few became members of the church. But the men said: "A man can't do business on Christian principles;" and the women said: "It is impossible to be in society and take care of one's house and family, and be religious too." And their religion all seemed to fade out, though they did not all give up their pews. And when the preacher died, he said he hoped "he should meet some of them in heaven; but he was not quite sure."

And some of the preacher's words fell on the ears of some boys and girls, and men and women, who were sick of sin, and tired of being enemies of God. And they took his advice and went that very day to Christ in prayer, and said to Him:

"O Lord Jesus! We don't want to love sin any more! We want to be Thine. From this hour we will be Thy loving servants forever. We give ourselves away to Thee. Save us!" And people soon found out they were Christians. At first some tried to laugh at them; but they remembered that people laughed and mocked at Christ, and He did not get angry at it. And some of them went away as missionaries; and still more of them did good missionary work at home, and in their families. And all of them gained wisdom, though few of them gained fame. And when their neighbors who had mocked at them got sick, they sent for these Christian friends to come and pray with them. And when they died, the world around them said they were good men and women—the salt of the earth. And some did more than others; but all did something for Christ.—*From "The Print of His Shoe,"* by Rev. W. W. Smith.

C. C. W. B. OF MISSIONS.

Jan. 14th,--Toronto Zion Church, Ladies' Society for General Fund.....	\$10 00
Jan. 14th,--Western Church Social, Miss Lyman's salary.....	10 00
Jan. 14th,--Toronto, Bond St. Church, Ladies' Prayer Meeting for Indian Missions.....	6 00
Jan. 14th,--Humber Summit, W. M. Society for Home Missions.....	12 50

Many of the churches have not been heard from, we should like to hear about what they are doing, and ask the question: What are the women of our denomination going to do this year for missions?

M. A. BURTON,
Treasurer, C. C. W. B. of M.

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THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

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