#### NORTHERN MESSENGER.

eat! And how contented the babies looked in the red cradle !"

8

"I don't think we ever had such a nice time before in the play-house," put in Margaret, the quiet twin. "It's twice as nuch fun as making believe. O mamma ! let us do it always.'

And they have done it always, ---so far as six years can make up an "always." The parties come and the parties go every Wednesday all summer long, and, as I said, invariably in sunshine. May, or one of her twin-sisters, grown-up girls now, take turns in presiding over the entertainment and seeing that all goes smoothly, and "Friends' Day" is established as part of the happy sequence of life among the Harmonys. Scarcely ever do the same women come twice during a summer; not that they would not like it, but that there are so many in need of such refreshment that it can seldom be allowed. And I do not think that any Little Log Cabin or ex-play-house could ask for a better fate in its old age than to be turned to a blessed use like this,-do you ?

#### "MY FATHER'S BUSINESS."

It was Monday morning, and Mrs. N was very busy doing her morning work before commencing to wash, when she felt impressed to go and see a woman living not very far away.

"How can I leave my work ?" she said to herself.

But the words of Jesus came to her memory, "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" "I will go," she said. "My Father's business is of greater importance than mine."

This woman she had felt impressed to visit was not a very reputable one, most of her neighbors having long since ceased to call upon her. Reaching the house, Mrs. N---- knocked, and being admitted she

found the woman in great agitation. "I think I'll tell you," she began, "since you have taken the trouble to visit me. A little tract was left on my doorstep a few days ago. I read it and be-came deeply concerned for my soul. Yet I wanted to learn more, so I went to church yesterday. It did me no good though, for everyone seemed to shun me. After service I hoped some one would speak to me, but they did not. Then I thought I'd wait and speak to the minister ; but Mrs. - said, 'See ! you are blocking up the aisle. Can't you move on ?' So I passed out with the only words which had been said to me ringing in my ear. "So this is all Christians care for me!

I used to hear them tell of the worth of a soul. So I 'blocked the way'! Well, perhaps I did in more ways than one. I came home and passed an awful night, and I had just determined to take something to get me out of other people's way when you rapped," and the poor woman held out to the astonished Mrs. N--- a bottle of laudanum.

Mrs. N---- talked and prayed with the woman, and ere she left had the satisfaction of hoping that another soul was born of the Spirit.

"Go home with me," said Mrs. N-"For a time you need some one to show you how to find the 'sincere milk of the Word ;' babes in Christ need it."

When Mr. N--- returned to dinner he said, "So you did not wash to-day, Han-

nah. "No," replied his wife, "I was 'about my Father's business."" "If I had only done the same, poor

- would not have been tipsy again. I was on my way to my business when C--met mo and asked me to give him work or tell him where to find it. I was in a hurry and told him I would see about it to-mor-

row; but it seems Satan is not in so great a hurry as I, but gave him work to-day; for when I came in to dinner the poor fel-low was reeling past." "Go call him in, husband," said Mrs. N-

"It may not be too late, even now, to reclaim him." So C---- was sought and found. He

afterwards gave evidence that what these kind Christians had done for him had been the means not only of his reformation. but of his salvation.-American Messenger.

IT IS ALWAYS a more wholesome exercise to discover our duties than to assert our riglits.

# CANADA PRIZE COMPETITION.

## LORD DUFFERIN'S AWARD.

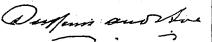
#### ANNOUNCEMENT FOR 1891.

We have received the following letter from the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava, awarding the Dominion Prize for the last competition and kindly undertaking to adjudge the prize for the coming ycar. We heartily congratulate Miss Maude Saunders, of Lawrencetown School. Annapolis. Nova Scotia, in being the winner of the piano, and we are convinced that when her striking story is published in the Witness, few will look upon it as derogatory to the other stories that this one receives the prize.

### LORD DUFFERIN'S LETTER.

# BRITISH EMBASSY, Rome, August 29th, 1890.

Rome, August 29th, 1890. GENTLEMEN,— I have now the pleasure of returning you the nine stories you sent me, selected from 2,237 written by the school children of Canada. It has been a somewhat difficult task to determine to which of the foregoing stories the first place should be given, as so many various character-istics combine to create literary excellence, and each of the compositions possesses some of these in a lesser or greater degree. Looking, however, to its general merits, I have no hesitation in giv-ing the preference to the story entitled "By Fire," written by Miss Maude Saunders, of Lawrence-town school, Annapolis, Nova Scotia. As you are good enough to ask me to do so, I beg to say that I shall have great pleasure in acting as judge next year. I have the honor to be, gentlemen, Your obedient servant,



To Messre, John Dougall & Son, Witness Office, Montreal, Canada. COMPETITION FOR 1891.

COMPETITION FOR 1891. Hundreds and perhaps thousands of the scholars in Canadian schools have been waiting anxiously for a definite announcement of the *Winces* Prizo Competition for Canadian stories for 1891. We have received intimations that some of our young historians are already at work on the stories for this competition. This is well, and we hope that their enthusiasm will meet with the success that it deserves. All scholars of public or private schools in Canada may engage in this competition, exclud-ing only schools which are merely finishing schools, such as universities, normal schools, and the like. Perhaps the distinction may best be made as follows: If the school is one in which the scholar may enter while young and work up to even the highest point of scholastic knowledge it will be included in this competition; it, how-ever, he may only enter to complete his cduca-tion, this school will not be included in this com-petition. Newfoundland, as in previous years, will be included. THE STORIES.

#### THE STORIES.

THE STORIES. THE STORIES. Each story must be in the handwriting of the competitor, and in this competition it must not exceed 2,000 words—the shortor the better. It must be written on one side of the paper only. the paper used to be one quarter of a sheet of foolscap,—that is 64 inches deep by 84 inches broad, or thereabouts. These sheets should be numbered and placed in order, and the backing sheet added. [As many of those backing sheets as may be required to supply the competitors in each school will be sent free on the request for therequired number being received.] Thestories should then be folded so as to be 84 inches long by 34 broad, and be enclosed in a backing sheet, which must be endersed with the name of the county (or eity), the post-office address of the writer, the age of the writer, the school, the county of eity, the post-office should be filled out and signed by the teacher. The name and post-office address of the writer should be placed at the end of each story. Minute directions will be contained on the backing sheet. sheet.

#### THE SUBJECTS AND THEIR TREATMENT.

THE SUBJECTS AND THEIR TREATMENT. As we have intimated above, the field for the selection of the subjects of those stories has been broadened. The competitor will not be required to confine himself to his own county for the in-cidents on which to base his story, but the scene of his narrative must be, in part at least, in the province in which he lives. The writer need not in his story confine himself in all points to literal truth ; but the story must be founded on a solid basis of fact and must have artistic truth; that is, the events narrated must be such as might have happened in the places and at the times treated of in the story.

#### THE PRIZES.

THE PRIZES. As last year, wo offer a series of soven sets of Prizes:-1. A School Prize, a copy of the Northern Messenger for a year. The first year 653 school prizes were awarded ; this year, 850 prizes; noxt year wo hope to award double that number at the very least. One of those school prizes in noxt year wo hope to award double that number at the very least. One of those school prizes; noxt year wo hope to award double that number at the very least. One of those school prizes in noxt year wo hope to award double that number at the very least. One of those school prizes in noxt above. 2. A County Prize to the writer of the best story from each county. Each eity ranks as county division. This prize will be a book con-taining a selection of the most interesting stories from the first and second competitions, and book con-tainterest to the writers in this competition. 3. A Province Prize for the best story selected province. The Province Prize will be a copy of "Kingsford's History of Canada," in four vol-twich has yot been published. 4. The Canada Prize. —This prize will be a warded in actory of the work is characterized by eritics as the most important history of Canada, in four vol-the bast sory selected from amongs the year and the work is characterized by eritics as the most important history of Canada, while it has to the best story selected from amongs the young people of Canada, while it has a tragen number will take active interest in advancing an enterprise while, already, has re-advancing an enterprise while, already, has re-advancing an enterprise while, already, has re-tical lessons in English composition which they the all discory of their county, and given them prac-tical lessons in English composition which they

with the name of the winner and the conditions could obtain so effectually in no other way. It under which it was received engraved on the has done more than this. We have undoubted and wide spread evidence that it has been the and wide spread evidence that it has been the and wide spread evidence that it has been the means of engredering a new and lively interest in the regular studies in very many schools, and the dollars. The watches are described by Messrs, Henry Birks & Co., of Montreal, from whom the prizes will be purchased, and whose name is sufficient will be purchased, and whose name is sufficient evidence that the articles will be insta recorded. a gentieman's watch, in the wanter as to give will be a lady's watch. Either will cost one hun-dred dollars, The watches are described by Messrs. Henry Birks & Co., of Montreal, from whom the prizes will be purchased, and whose name is sufficient ovidence that the articles will be just as reported, as follows:--"Gentleman's watch-solid 18 carat gold, heavy case, engine turned finish, fine Wal-tham movement, 15 jewels, adjusted to tempera-ture, stem winder; warranted a perfect time-keeper. Chain, solid 15 carat gold. Price watch, 580; chain and charm, \$27. Lady's watch-solid 18 carat case, strong case, half hunting, plain; monogram to be engraved on the back; move-ment, fine nickel, full jewelled, chronometer bal-ance, lever movement, made by Ulysse Nardin, warranted a perfect time-keeper. Chain, solid 15 carat gold. Cost of lady's watch, \$81; chain, \$18. We think that that this prize will he as attractive

15 carat gold. Cost of lady's watch, §81; chain, §18. We think that this prize will be as attractive as any previously offered and will have this ad-vantage that no one will receive it who will not find use for it, and if carefully handled it will be a pleasure as well as useful during the life time of the winner. The second best story from the Province Secur-ing this prize will obtain the Province Prize, while the second best story in that Province will obtain the county prize. 5. The Recognition Medals which last year were sent to every competitor were received with so much delight that we have concluded to repeat them again this year, of course changing their form.

them again this year, of course changing their form. 6. Fifty Prizes to Schools which show the best general result in the stories sent from them, nechness, good hand-writing, number of stories, and all similar points being considered. Those fifty prizes will be divided among the provinces in proportion to the number of stories sent from each, and will be awarded by the province judges. This prize will be a framed portrait of Her Majesty the Queen, to be hung up in the winning schools, but in the event of any school having last year gained this prize, a picture which, we hope, will prove of equal interest, will be sent in its place. 7. A Copy of the Daily or Weekly Witness, as may be chosen, will be sent to the winners of the Canada, Province and County prizes. These papers will contain many of the stories and much to interest competitors during the year. If a copy of the Witness already goes to the residence of the winner, the subscription will be sent for one year to anyone whom the winner may indicate. A FRIZE FOR ILLUSTRATIONS.

A PRIZE FOR ILLUSTRATIONS. Last year a few writers of stories sent original drawings illustrating their stories. This year we offer to the scholar in each province, on the condition specified above, who sends us the best pictorial illustration for any story, in this or for-mer competitions, whether written by himself or another, a copy of the book of prize stories offered as county prize. Should the artist be already the winner of a county prize, another interesting book will be substituted. The sketch should be signed by the author, who should also give his pest-office address and school, and it should be accompanied by the story it illustrates. These sketches will not be sent to the province judges, but will be judged by an expert in such matters. A PRIZE FOR ILLUSTRATIONS. THE DATA.

The storics must all be mailed on or before January 31st, 1891, and the prizes, if possible, will be forwarded in time to be distributed pub-licly before the summer holidays. If the stories are sent to us as soon as they are ready it will enable us to classify and register them earlier and a few days may be gained in sending them to the judges.

#### ONTARIO,

ONTARIO. Last year. in consequence of the very large number of stories which came from Ontario, we had to divide it into two provincial districts. Notwithstanding this division the number of stories, especially from one of those divisions, was largely in excess of those from any other province, and we have, therefore, determined this year to divide Ontario into three provincial districts— east, contre and west. Those divisions will com-prise the following counties and cities : ONTARIO EAST—The counties of Prescott. Glon.

ONTARIO EAST—The counties of Prescott, Glen-garry, Russell, Stormont, Carleton, Grenville, Lanauk, Leeds, Renfrew, Frontonae, Addington, Hastings, Princo Edward, Nipissing, Haliburton, Peterborough, Northumberland, Parry Sound, Muskoka, Victoria, Durham, Ontario, Dundas and York, and the cities of Ottawa, Kingston and Belleville. Belleville.

ONTARIO CENTRE.—The counties of Simcoe, Dufferin, Peel, Halton, Grev. Wellington. Went-worth, Lincoln, Welland, Haldimand, Norfolk, Brant, Perth, and the citicsof Toronto, Hamilton, Guelph and St. Catharines.

ONTARIO WEST.—The counties of Waterloo, Bruce, Huron, Oxford, Elgin, Middlesex, Lamb-ton, Kont, Essox, Algoma and the cities of Brant-ford, St. Thomas, London and Woodstock.

JUDGES. Canada—The Marquis of Dufferin and Ava, Her Majesty's ambassador at Rome. Newfoundland, Manitoha. N. W. Territories, British Columbia—S. E. Dawson, D. Lit., Mont-real Oue.

#### STILL ANOTHER PRIZE.

STILL ANOTHER PRIZE. As announced above, the county prize will be a copy of a book to be made up of stories selected from the different competitions. With a view to learning something of the wealth of unde-veloped artistic talent there is in Canada we of-fer a prize of Ruskin's works for the best illus-trations of any of the Canadian stories published in the *Witness*. If the pictures happen to be il-lustrations of stories selected for that work they will, for sufficient merit, appear therein. They will, if of sufficient merit, appear therein. They will, for sufficient merit, appear there as illustrations the story, nor altogether on their own merits as pictures, but on their value as illustrations to the same story, which will be counted as one, or they may send illustrations of different stories, which will be counted separately. Competitors should sign these sketches and add their post-office addresses. CORRESPONDENCE,

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CORRESPONDENCE.

Please address all correspondence on this sub-JOHN DOUGALL & SON, Montreal, P. Q.

[Canada Prize Competition.]

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Any subscriber to the Messenger who sends in with his renewal subscription that of a new one, each at 30 cents, will receive his choice of any one of the following four noble pictures. If he sends in one new subscription with his own, at 30 cents each, and ten cents in addition, mak-ing 70 cents he will receive any two of these beautiful large pictures:

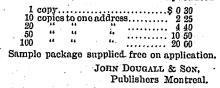
"THE ANGELUS," by Jean Francois Millet. "SCOTTISH CATTLE RAID," by Rosa Bonheur.

"THE HORSE FAIR," by Rosa Bonheur. "CHRIST BEFORE PILATE," by Michael Von

Munkacsy.

### NEW CLUB RATES.

The following are the NEW CLUB RATES for the MESSENGER, which are considerably reduced:



### THE PANSY LIBRARY.

Any subscriber to the Messenger, who sends in with his renewal subscription one of the Pansy stories; for five cents extra the new subscriber will also receive a book. Each story is in an illuminated paper cover and well illustrated. Sixteen subscribers at 30c, new or old, will entitle the sender to the full set of this new paper cover series. The names of these stories that may be selected are as follows:-THE KING'S DAUGUTER

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