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OUR BROKEN WALLS.

Over a winding, wayside wall,
Ragged, and rough, and gray,
There crept a tender and clinging vine,
Tirelessly day by day.
At last its mantle of softest tint
Covered each jagged seam,
The straggling wall, half broken down,
Became, with that leafy, tinted crown,
Fair as an artist's dream.

O for the kindness that clings and twines
Over life's broken wall,
That blossoms above the scars of pain,
Striving to hide them all!
O for the helpful, ministering hands,
Beneficent, willing feet,
That spread rich mantles of tender
thought
O'er life's hard places, till Time has
wrought
Its healing—divine, complete.

—Lanta Smith, in *Youth's Companion*.

Bishop Warren.—Bishop Henry W. Warren was born January 4th, 1831, at Williamsburg, Mass. He was educated at Wilbraham, Mass., and at Wesleyan University. Entering the ministry in 1855, his superior abilities as a preacher soon won him fame, and he was appointed to some of the most important churches. In the year 1880 he was made a bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He is the author of "Recreations in Astronomy," and of "Among the Forces," which has been chosen as one of the volumes for this year's Epworth League reading course. This book is unusually suggestive along interesting and profitable lines of thought.

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The Best Christmas Gift.—The finest one can give is always himself. "The gift without the giver is bare." You may have not one dollar to spend, but you can carry sunshine if your face is bright and your manner is sympathetic and your heart is genuinely loving. Not in purple or fine-twined linen, not in silver or gold, not in any perishable earthly commodity inheres the elixir of the Christmas joy; it is finer, subtler, sweeter, than aught money can buy; it is distilled from a heart "at leisure from itself," and over it angels have chanted "Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth, good-will to men."—*Margaret E. Sangster.*

✧
Show Your Colors.—I come into a house in this village and at once know where I am. No need of carefully calculating probabilities and guessing at likelihoods—the house proclaims itself to be a Christian home. It shows its colors. There is a fine portrait of John Wesley. No portrait of any human being is better fitted to adorn a home. There is that marvel of Christian art, the Angelus, a

portrait of Neal Dow, Miss Willard, Lady Somerset, a bishop or two. There is a piano and a pile of Christian songs. On the shelves are fit volumes, including a set of Chautauqua books. On the table the *Christian Journal*. Such a home shows its colors. It says to any transient visitor, "here is temperance, song, knowledge and Christianity." Children brought up in such an atmosphere of beauty, harmony and love have a thousand advantages, not only for making that home a blissful delight, but also the homes of the future a power for God and man.—*Bishop Warren.*

A Good Way to Keep Christmas.

—If you want a good time on Christmas eve, go and hire the largest sleigh you can afford to pay for, and tell the people at the stables to put in plenty of furs.



REV. W. P. DYER, M.A., D.D.
PRINCIPAL ALBERT COLLEGE, BELLEVILLE.

Then go to an orphan asylum, or to the head of a Sunday School, or to the teacher of any other school in a region where you think the children do not have any sleigh rides. Make a list of as many children who can sing as the sleigh will hold, and be sure that five or six of them can sing some good Christmas hymns and carols. Then pile the children into the sleigh so that they can keep each other warm, and cover them up with furs. Then let the driver start, and let the children choose where they will go to sing carols, and you will come back after the nicest sleigh-ride ever had in your life.—*Edward Everett Hale.*

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The Junior League.—In many parts of the country the most vital and vitalizing department of the Church is the Junior League. It happens not infrequently that the most cultivated and expert teachers to be found in the community are engaged in the work, and the very latest and most enterprising methods of instruction are used, and as a conse-

quence large, intelligent, and deeply interested hosts of "Juniors" are being trained in the knowledge of the Word, and in the fundamental principles of the religious life, while at the same time they are being drawn, week by week, to give themselves to the Saviour. The results achieved in some cases have been extraordinary.—*Central Ch. Advocate.*

Chemistry and Religion.

—Thomas A. Edison, the great inventor, recently made the following remarkable statement: "Chemistry undoubtedly proves the existence of a supreme intelligence. No one can study that science and see the wonderful way in which certain elements combine with the nicety of the most delicate machine ever devised and not come to the inevitable conclusion that there is a big engineer who is running this universe. Why, after years of watching the processes of nature, I no more doubt the existence of an intelligence that is running things than I do the existence of myself. Take, for example, the substance water, that forms the crystal known as ice. Now, there are hundreds of combinations that form crystals and every one of them, save that of ice, sinks in water. Ice, I say, doesn't. And it is rather lucky for us mortals, for if it had done so we would all be dead. Why? Simply because if ice sank to the bottom of the rivers, lakes, and oceans as fast as it froze, these places would soon be frozen up and there would be no water left. That is only one example out of thousands that to me prove beyond the possibility of a doubt that some vast intelligence is governing this and the other planets."

Christmas Day and Family Life.

—On Christmas Day, which is as much a festival of the family as a festival of the Church, estrangements which have separated hearts should cease, and the ties which unite them should be drawn closer and firmer. It is the day of all the year for children to forget, if their parents have worried or vexed them; for parents to forget if their children have been un dutiful and ungrateful; for brothers and sisters to brush away the jealousies and resentment which have troubled their mutual confidence and lessened or rather repressed their mutual affection; for husbands and wives to renew the romance of their courtship. Let by-gones be by-gones; kiss and have done with them.—*Rev. R. W. Dale.*

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