

### The Pearls Pure and Fair.

Every year is a pearl, dear,  
Perfect and pure and fair,  
That God lets grow within your life,  
Trusting it to your care.

And death is the golden clasp, dear,  
That fastens the pearly chain,  
And it shines with a clearer lustre  
If the pearls are white through pain.

Some of the chains are short, dear,  
And some are of many strands;  
But every one returns at last  
To the Master Workman's hands.

So watch your precious pearls, dear,  
And keep them ever bright,  
That with the crown-jewels they may glow  
At last in the infinite light.

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## Home and School

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

TORONTO, JANUARY 1, 1887.

**\$250,000**  
**FOR MISSIONS**

**FOR THE YEAR 1887.**

### The New Year.

ANOTHER year is past. We hope it has been to our readers the best year of their lives. The Lord has given us many blessings during the past year; we should thank him for his goodness, and love him with all our hearts. We may have had afflictions and sorrows, yet the Lord has blessed us above many others; many of our friends and acquaintances have died, we still live. Praise the Lord!

But how is it about the future? What will we do through the year just commencing? Shall it be spent for Jesus? What will be our motto for the year 1887? How would this do—"I will live for Jesus all the year." Perhaps some of our readers will be in eternity before the close of the year. What a serious thought that some of us may either be in heaven, or lost forever, before this year ends. We should think of these things and pray over them, and improve the time; and be always ready, and then if we should die, even to-day, we need not fear. We hope that

during this year many of our readers will give their hearts to Jesus. Then it will prove to be the happiest year of all your life.

### The Duty of the Hour.

#### A STATEMENT AND AN APPEAL.

THE General Board of Missions has met, and after two days and nights of anxious, painstaking work, has adjourned, leaving the Church face to face with a grave responsibility.

Wearied though the members were with the long and arduous labours of the General Conference, there was no disposition to slight the work of the Mission Board. Each member seemed to feel that his task as a guardian of the great mission work of the Church was sacred, and must be performed with the most scrupulous care. Every detail of proposed expenditure was minutely examined; where reduction could be made without impairing efficiency, it was done; but when the final result was reached, the members of the Board found to their dismay that the amount distributed would give to the men on the Domestic Missions only 65 per cent.—rather less than two-thirds of the modest stipend agreed upon as a basis of distribution. They gazed at the figures with sorrowful faces; but they had done the best that men could do with the means at their command, and they could only return to their homes praying that the Church might be aroused to measure up to the responsibilities of the hour.

The gravity of the situation is increased by two circumstances: the numerous claims upon the liberality of the people, and the fact that we have no returned missionaries this year whose thrilling stories of missionary work might rekindle flagging zeal. In the Western Conferences large sums must be raised for Victoria College; help must be given to a number of embarrassed church trusts; while in all the Conferences appeals will be made for a supplementary fund out of which aid must be given to the poorly paid men on many dependent fields. With all these claims pressing upon the people there is danger that the Missionary Fund will suffer, unless prompt and vigorous efforts are made to sustain it.

In this emergency our appeal is alike to ministers and people, as the help of each is indispensable. The situation is grave, but it is by no means desperate. The call is for a rally all along the line. The resources of the Church are ample, if only they can be utilized. Other claims should not be forgotten, but this must be foremost. Keep it before the people. Let it be woven into many a sermon, and be made the burden of many a prayer. *That Quarter of a Million for Missions must be raised!* and every circuit should aim at doing its share. Two-and-a-half cents a week from each member of the Church will more than do it. One cent a day



THE SICK GIRL'S CHRISTMAS TREE.

from each member will do it nearly three times over. Every member can be reached if the right means are taken, and every member *must* be reached if the desired end is to be gained.

Much depends upon the pastors. If they are enthusiastic, the people will respond; but if they are indifferent, the people will be so too. Let them think of the issues at stake. Failure means increased burdens for scores of discouraged missionaries who have already more than they can bear. Success means help and hope to hundreds who are sorely in need of both. Do not take it amiss if we venture a suggestion or two. 1. Take the people into your confidence. Tell them all you know about the Society, its work and its needs, and give them a practical share in the task of distributing information and raising the fund. 2. Try a monthly missionary prayer-meeting; they have proved a benediction wherever established. 3. Circulate information. The General Secretary will gladly supply you with tracts if you will let him know how many you can use. 4. Send on the funds to the head office as early as possible, so as to stop interest for bank advances. Every dollar saved tells in the result.

In this blessed work let the people rally to the support of their pastors. Do not leave them to carry the burden alone. There are a score of ways in which you can co-operate. Hold missionary prayer-meetings; circulate missionary information; see that every member and adherent of the Church gets a chance to contribute; and bring in your offerings without waiting to

be called upon. The time is short and there is much to do. The result aimed at will be reached if each one does his share. What your share is can be determined only when you have honestly answered the question, "How much owest thou unto thy Lord?"

A SUTHERLAND.

### The Sick Girl's Christmas Tree.

THIS little girl was too sick to go down to the parlour with the rest of the children for her Christmas tree. So her loving brothers and sisters prepared a little toy tree for herself. And wasn't it a glad surprise when they took it into her? It almost made her well, and the other children enjoyed their sick sister's delight in the little tree more than they did the presents on their own big tree in the parlour. So true are the Saviour's words, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

HEAVEN is a day without a cloud to darken it and without a night to end it. In heaven there is the presence of all good, and the absence of all evil. As heaven is kept for the saints by Christ, so they are kept for heaven by the Spirit. If we live with God here below, we shall live with him above. In heaven our hearts will swell with rapture, but never murmur; our breasts warm with gratitude, but never sigh; our eyes be charmed with visions, but never weep; our hands enriched with palms of victory, but never tremble; and our heads encircled with an exceeding and eternal weight of glory, but never ache.—Wm. M. Taylor.