

# PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK.

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## THE NEW TEACHER.

No feature of our Sunday-school work in Canada is more delightful than its enlisting the best brain and best blood of our Methodist homes in the service of the Master. In our own Church in this Canada of ours there is a great army of over thirty thousand Sunday-school teachers and officers, who devote their generous, unpaid services to the instruction of our young in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

In certain parts of the Mother Land in which the Sunday school was born, although it has some of the best schools in the world, the idea that it is a sort of ragged school to keep little waifs and strays off the street is scarcely yet outgrown. Few things surprise British visitors more than the comfort and elegance of many of our Sunday-schools.

In our churches, Epworth Leagues, and schools, there is becoming recognized more and more the obligation of persons of education, culture and refinement to bring their best gifts—the gold and frankincense and myrrh of their lives—as the Magi did of old, and lay them at the feet of the Child Jesus.

Our engraving on this page is a beautiful picture of a young girl tripping through the snow with her Bible and hymn-book to the Sunday-school. Having given her own young heart to the Saviour, she finds her chief joy in leading others also to embrace his loving service. She has obeyed the loving invitation "Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and thy father's house; so shall the king greatly desire thy beauty; for he is thy Lord; and worship thou him."

Thus is our beloved Methodism and our holy Christianity being fostered and built up throughout this broad land. Thus is being fulfilled the promise of Scripture, "So shall our sons be as plants grown up in their youth, so shall our daughters be as cornerstones, polished after the similitude of the palace."



THE NEW TEACHER.

## A BOY'S VIEW ON ALCOHOL.

MASTER A. ROGERS' ESSAY THAT WON THE OTTAWA W.C.T.U. PRIZE.

ALCOHOL is an Arabic word meaning "evil one." It was first discovered by the Arabians in the early part of the eleventh century.

The Indians call it Fire Water, and its effect upon them is terrible in the extreme.

Two reasons why we should not use alcohol in any way are because three-quarters of all the crimes are committed while under the influence of liquor. Sixty

thousand people are killed every year by drink in this country alone, meaning 164 a day or one in every ten minutes. A certain queen, who, when liquor was abolished in her kingdom, was asked by the liquor manufacturers for compensation, replied: "Go and compensate those who have been ruined by your business and then it will be time to demand compensation."

Some people think there is no alcohol in cider. It cannot keep twenty-four hours before it develops alcohol as it is made from the juice of the apple which is very sweet. It ferments quickly.

Wine is made from the juice of the grape. Beer is mostly made from grain and hops, and yeast is put in to make it ferment and thus form alcohol.

Gin is made by heating beer until the alcohol goes off in vapour like the steam from hot water, and then this is cooled and makes the liquid called gin.

Brandy is made from wine and cider the same way as gin.

Whiskey is made from potatoes and corn and other kinds of grain. And rum from sugar cane. There is no alcohol in the fruits and grain. We might eat a quart of grapes without getting tipsy, while if a

child drank the amount of alcohol that can be made from the same quantity of grapes it would kill it in a very short time.

It is known that if the white of an egg is put in alcohol it becomes cooked in less than a minute, and as brain is similar in substance to the white of egg it is cooked in the same way. In Sir John Franklin's expedition to the north pole, when anybody died they put the body in alcohol to preserve it and bring it home for burial.

Abstinence would save ten hundred millions of dollars in the United States alone every year.

If whiskey was abolished we would not need so many policemen, and the most of our courts, gaols and prisons would be closed.

It is stated that 1,539 liquor shops are owned by 172 members of the House of Lords. How can temperance legislation be expected from such men as these?

## CONCERNING COMPANIONS.

UNLOAD all bad companions. The company a man keeps tells on him sooner or later. I had commended a young man for a place in bank. So far as I knew him he was worthy of it. But another who was questioned on the point said to the president of the bank, "I saw him last Sunday afternoon with a party of young men smoking on a street corner." His application was declined. His company killed that chance.

Unload bad books and papers. They poison you. You cannot handle pitch and escape unsoiled. A magistrate once refused me a warrant for a young man until he could look into the case farther. He looked farther, and found a man who said, "By accident I changed overcoats with him a few days ago, and did not discover my error till I found in the pocket a vile book." The warrant was issued at once. Pure character and vile reading do not go together.

Unload your sins at the Cross of Christ. There only can they be washed away, and your soul be made safe. Unload your spirit of neglect. Opportunities enough have been lost. Lose no more. Undo all wrong as far as can be and start on to win a new reputation,—one for fidelity to Christ and to every Christian duty.

God, by his providence, says to each of us to-day, "I give you a clean, new book. Write your biography." What will you write?—*Sunday-School Times*.

Slow to condemn—quick to excuse.