

Correspondence

A Happy New Year To All!

Dear Boys and Girls,—How I should like to write you each a personal letter, if I could. But it would be impossible, so you must each consider this your own letter from me. I want to ask you some questions after wishing you a very happy New Year.

What is this new year going to mean to you? How can you keep all those resolves you think you ought to make? You are a year older than you were last New Year's day—are you a year further on the way to God? Your body has been growing this year—has your soul been growing, too? You have been learning new lessons this year—have you been learning more about Jesus? It was said of our Lord that he 'increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man.' My prayer for each one of you is that you may do the same.

If your body did not grow at all your parents would get very anxious, and perhaps take you to some great doctor to find out what was the matter with you. If your mind did not grow, if you did not get any wiser as the years went by, your parents and friends would be very anxious for you, and perhaps send you to some specially good school or get a very clever teacher for you. Our minds and our bodies are so important that they should be given every opportunity to develop well, for the glory of God. But the most important part of us is our soul. If your soul is not growing, there is something the matter with it. I want to take you to the Great Physician, the Lord Jesus. He will wash your sins away with his own precious blood and fill your soul with his life and love. He will also give you a Teacher, the Holy Spirit, who will teach you how to follow Jesus day by day, and to grow more and more like him.

How many will begin this beautiful New Year of 1899 by giving themselves to Jesus? Will you? Will you not write me a little letter telling me if you have done so, or what hinders you, and I will try to help you? If your letter is just for me, mark it 'Personal,' and it shall not be printed.

Again wishing you the very happiest year you have ever had, I am, your loving friend,

THE EDITOR OF THE
CORRESPONDENCE.

Carrie and Elsie send pressed flowers—the Editor is much obliged for them. Lulu hopes to get new subscribers for the 'Messenger'—we hope she will be very successful. Alice has only had two birthdays, but she writes very well; we hope her brother will soon be well again. Lena May and her sister have a good record of Sunday-school attendance.

Please remember to write plainly on only one side of the paper, and address all letters for this page, 'Messenger Correspondence,' 'Witness' Office, Montreal.

Parishville, N.Y.

Dear Editor,—I have taken the 'Messenger' for two years, and think it is the best paper I see. We are two miles from the church, and have to walk. We have a small library at Sunday-school. I get a book out every time I go. I think 'Mamie's' letter is very interesting, on account of its description of natural scenery.

IDA ROSE (aged 9).

Winnipeg, Man.

Dear Editor,—I enjoy reading the 'Messenger' very much; it is a good paper, and is widely circulated through Manitoba. I get your paper from my Sunday-school. I was away this summer for three months in the country, and I enjoyed my visit very much, and the time passed altogether too quickly.

MADGE.

Hantsport, N.S.

Dear Editor,—I want to tell you how much I enjoy your paper. I was very much interested in the letter from 'L.S.' I feel as if she was a friend of mine. We have lately adorned our church with a fine pipe organ. Hantsport is a very pretty place, especially in the summer. We have a splendid view from our house.

B. G. R.

Acton.

Dear Editor,—I get the 'Northern Messenger' at Sunday-school, and like it very much, especially the correspondence, and I look to see if I know anybody who writes, and I only knew one.

We are getting electric lights in our town. My brother is writing to his Sunday-school teacher, who has gone away. We have lots of snow here, and it is very cold.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

ALICK (aged 9).

Mansfield.

Mansfield, Ont.

Dear Editor,—My grandma takes the 'Messenger,' and I enjoy reading the correspondence. I belong to the Junior League. We have an organ, and I like playing very much. My mamma and papa read the 'Messenger,' and like it very much. I enclose a bunch of wild mint and shamrock. Please accept them.

ELSIE (aged 10).

Mansfield, Ont.

Dear Editor,—I live on a farm. We have a large bush, and I enjoy gathering flowers in the summer. We have an organ, and I intend taking music lessons next summer. I have two pets, a dog and a cat. I am going to join the Epworth League. I enclose some of the flowers we have in our garden in Simcoe County.

CARRIE (aged 12).

Fulton Brook.

Dear Editor,—School will soon close now, as Christmas will soon be here. We do not have any school here after Christmas until April. Papa keeps the post-office; the mail was changed here last summer. It is twelve miles from here to the nearest railway, and seven miles from the nearest store. One of my aunts keeps a store eleven miles from here. I spent a week of my summer vacation at my grandpa's.

ESTHER (aged 13).

Broadlands.

Dear Editor,—I saw a letter from Mamie, who lives about eleven miles from here, on the opposite side of the river. My father fishes salmon in summer. My sister is taking music lessons for the organ. I often go out on the ice and fish for trout. There is some fine skating here.

A. G. A. (aged 13).

Souderton, Pa.

Dear Editor,—I have a good teacher. My father is a Mennonite preacher. I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

JACOB (aged 12).

Keady.

Dear Editor,—I have not missed one Sabbath at Sabbath-school this year, neither has my sister. We enjoy the reading in the 'Messenger' very much.

LENA MAY (aged 6).

Hollands Mille, Que.

Dear Editor,—I attend the Presbyterian Sunday-school, and get the 'Messenger' every Sunday. Mamma and I enjoy reading it very much. I have no brothers or sisters. I sometimes help papa in the store mornings and evenings, and go to school every day. We have a small schoolhouse at the foot of a mountain. We go up to the top to eat our lunch. We have great fun in winter skating on the creeks and lakes, and coasting down hills.

ARTHUR (aged 11).

South Durham, Que.

Dear Editor,—I see in the 'Messenger' that a little girl in Smithville cannot find any boy or girl that has a birthday like herself. I was born on the same date, February 29th, 1888. I have had only two birthdays, and I must wait till I am sixteen to have another. I live on a farm, and have to walk one mile to the village model school. We

have an orchard. My eldest brother is in the Victoria Hospital, Montreal; he has been ill.

ALICE (aged 10).

Winnipeg, Man.

Dear Editor,—Winnipeg is a very pleasant place. I have two sisters and a brother, and an aunt staying with us. I have been skating every winter for seven years. I take the 'Northern Messenger,' and I like it very much, and enjoy reading the letters and little stories. The reason I wrote this letter was because I like reading letters that other children have written.

V. G.

Tilsonburg.

Dear Editor,—I have a little sister two and a-half; she can talk well, and plays with me. She and I are always glad when your good paper comes. My sister and I listen very attentively while grandpa reads for us. My papa has a nice span of black horses. He does all the ploughing. Grandpa has a span which he drives to market. Grandpa says the paper can come in my name when the new year comes in. I have cousins that take your good paper. They like it well. I live two miles from Tilsonburg; it is a good town.

LOUIS HENRY (aged 7).

St. Albans, Vt.

Dear Editor,—I have not noticed any letters from this part of Vermont. I like to go to school very much, but I like vacation better. I am going to try to get a few subscribers to the 'Messenger' this month if I can.

LULU (aged 12).

Burnstown.

Dear Editor,—My father is a blacksmith. I belong to the mission band; there are about forty belong to it. We have been taking the 'Witness' for twenty years, and the 'Messenger' for fifteen years.

MARY J. (aged 8).

Edgeley, Assa.

Dear Editor,—I have two brothers and three sisters. I go to school. My brother has a little black dog. I live half-a-mile from the Edgeley Farm. It is a cold country.

LELA (aged 10).

Brookfield, N.S.

Dear Editor,—I have two sisters and one brother. I go to school every day. I enjoy reading the correspondence. My birthday is on Oct. 15. My little sister is twelve months old.

LOU. M. H. (aged 10).

Port Colborne.

Dear Editor,—I have a pet bird, its name is Margaret, and I have a pet cat. Father is a fruit-grower. I have two sisters. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

ELVA C. B. (aged 10).

Escuminac.

Dear Editor,—I got the 'Messenger' as a present from grandma last Christmas. I like it very much. I have only one little sister. We each have a pet cat. I was seven years old last month. I had a cake with sweeties on it.

AGGIE.

Brandon.

Dear Editor,—We live on a farm a mile and a-half from school, and go to school every day, summer and winter. I have a pony. We have two pet cats and a good dog. We had a pet crow, but we lost him when the cold weather came. I like Manitoba.

ARCHIE (aged 8).

Protestant Home, London, Ont.

Dear Editor,—There are forty-five children in this Home. We keep 45 chickens, 4 ducks, 2 rabbits and 1 white rat.

A kind lady sends us the 'Northern Messenger' and I like to read the letters. My father comes to see me nearly every Sunday. The matron lets me go down town on errands. We all go to church on Sunday. We have Sunday-school in the Home, and some of us go to church in the evening. This is my first letter to you. I will write again.

JAMES Mc. R. (aged 11).