

CHRISTMAS CAROL.

"GLORY to God!" the lofty strain
The realm of ether fills;
How sweeps the song of solemn joy
O'er Judah's sacred hills!
"Glory to God!" the sounding skies
Loud with their anthems ring
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
From Heaven's eternal King."

This day shall Christian tongues be mute,
And Christian hearts be cold?
O catch the anthem that from heaven
O'er Judah's mountain rolled!
When nightly burst from seraph harps
The high and solemn lay
"Glory to God! on earth be peace;
Salvation comes to-day!"

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Pleasant Hours:

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLKS:
Rev. W. H. WITHROW, M.A., Editor.

TORONTO, DECEMBER 24, 1881.

CHRISTMAS GREETING.

My dear young friends, I wish you all a happy Christmas and a merry New Year. There is something very gladdening and cheerful about the annual return of this holiday season. It reminds us of God's great Christmas gift to the world. For God so loved the world that he gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Now, the only way to have a happy Christmas, or a happy New Year, is to accept God's great gift. There are some people who think that religion makes people dull and melancholy. There never was a greater mistake in the world. It is only those who know their sins are forgiven, and who enjoy the favour of God, who have a right to be happy. So, first of all, give God your young hearts. It is the best and richest offering you can give Him; better far than the offering of gold, and frankincense, and myrrh, which the wise men brought to the blessed Babe of Bethlehem nearly nineteen hundred years ago.

Then, do not let Christmas pass without trying to make some one else happy. First of all, your parents and brothers and sisters and friends. Your gifts to them may not in themselves be worth much; but the wealth of love which they may reveal will make them more precious than gold. Then, there are many poor, who have few to give them presents; perhaps orphan children, whose parents God has taken—remember them in the day of your joy, and by sharing your toys or picture-papers try to make them, too, feel something of the Christmas joy. To those who are forgotten and neglected, no season seems so sad as that when all others are rejoicing. If you want to know the greatest gladness Christmas can give, try, both at home and abroad, to make others happy, too.



(See first page.)

AUF WIEDERSEHEN.

THE Germans have a custom when they part, of saying *Auf Wiedersehen*, "Until we meet again." So say I now to all the boys and girls who read the PLEASANT HOURS. I hope that its visits during the year have, indeed, given many pleasant hours to the 50,000 young folk whom I have had the privilege of addressing from time to time. And I hope the pleasure has been mixed with profit, and that you are wiser, better, stronger in purposes of good and wise resolves than ever you were before. With most of our readers this is a sort of turning-point. Most of the subscriptions to this paper end with this number. It is possible that some, I hope a very few, of the subscribers may not renew for the coming year. But most of them, I trust, will continue to belong to the PLEASANT HOUR family. And, therefore, when I say "good-bye," in this last number of 1881, I say, also, *Auf Wiedersehen*—May we meet again during all the months of 1882. The paper will be better than ever. The Editor will tell some of the most stirring stories of the grand history of our own land, which he hopes will make you all proud that you are Canadians. Able pens than his will tell the story of Early Methodists, whose noble lives it will be well for us all to copy. The Rev. E. R. YOUNG, Rev. GEO. COCHRAN, and other missionaries of our Church, will tell thrilling stories of the strange scenes of heathen lands, and which I hope will quicken your sympathies with the grand missionary work of our Church. We will have Temperance; Stories; Facts and Figures; Choice Poetry; Ingenious Puzzles; Lesson Notes and Explanations; Handsome Engravings, and everything that is good. And now, once more—*Auf Wiedersehen!*

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"I have carefully examined the copies of the PLEASANT HOURS and the SUNBEAM sent me, and I think them well fitted to interest and instruct the young, and specially deserving of Methodist patronage."

The Rev. J. G. LAIRD, President of the Toronto Conference, writes:

"My children are delighted with them. They will also cultivate a spirit of attachment to our Church, and awaken an interest in all our Christian and evangelistic enterprises. They ought to be in all our Sabbath Schools."

We hope these testimonials—and they could be supplemented by many others—will demonstrate, if there is need in any case for that, that the authorized S. S. periodicals of our own Church are better adapted for our own Schools than any foreign ones can possibly be.

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