

Correspondence

BOYS AND GIRLS.

The names of the boys and girls who are sending in correct answers will be printed later, and if any of you have sent in answers you think might be improved upon write again.—Correspondence Editor.

SUCCESSFUL TINIES.

Minnie M. Cassidy, William Graham, Annie May Rutter, Meada Ingram, M. E. Burgess; 9 years, Mary Parkes; 7 years, Greta E. Morton; 9 years, Katherine Boston MacDonald, Herbert Marshall, Lettie Marshall, Bertha Condon; 7 years, Laura B. Grant, Emma Elizabeth Schmidt, Laurence Lindsay Smith, Emily Tarr, Myrtle M. Snider, Ellen Evans, Letitia P. McDonald; 11 years, Willie Louttit, Roy Johnson, Polly Shield Macleod, Wilbur C. Lowly, Jessie E. Squires; 9 years, Ruby May Wilson, Annie S. Bagnall, Bertha Muir, Daniel F. Sargent, Kenneth W. Hay, Irene S. Wigginton.

If any of you have sent in answers and not seen your name, please write at once.—Ed.

Abingdon, Ont.

Dear Editor,—We live on a farm eighteen miles from Hamilton. My grandfather has been taking this little paper for a long time, and we all like it very much. I am the oldest in the family. I have two brothers. Charles is nine years old and Rutherford is five. I have one brother older than myself dead, and another (Rutherford's twin) dead. I am thirteen years old, and will be fourteen the last day of September. Both of my grandfathers and grandmothers are living, and they have both celebrated their golden weddings. Some time ago there was a letter from a little girl in California. I hope she will soon write another.

ELLA E. S.

Big Bras d'Or, C.B.

Dear Editor,—My sister has been taking the 'Messenger' for some time, so I thought I would write. I am in the eighth grade at school. I go nearly every day. There are fifty-four on the register. I go to Sunday-school when it is fine. I have about a mile and a half to walk. My sister and I go to our grandma's every summer in vacation. They have a beautiful garden of flowers in front of their house, and quite a lot of house plants. I have quite a few house plants, too. I skate in winter when there is ice. I have two brothers and one sister. There are not many girls around here. I am thirteen years of age.

LILLIAN F.

(Very neatly and prettily written.—Ed.)

Wyvern, N.S.

Dear Editor,—I like to go to school very much, and I am in the third book. My birthday was on January 18. I was twelve years old. I like to read the 'Messenger.'

NESTA F.

Stratford, Ont.

Dear Editor,—I got a lot of things last Christmas, but best of all, a baby sister. Her name is Nelo. I am waiting until she is a little older, so that I can take her out in her carriage. I passed last year into the junior fourth class, and have a number of lessons. We have a domestic science school.

BELLA M. McL. (age 9).

Ft. Sask. N., Alberta, N.W.T.

Dear Editor,—I have written two letters during the last year, and I saw one of them in print. We get the 'Messenger' at our school. There is a very good Sunday-school here, with eight classes and teachers. My father was the superintendent for the past year. I have five brothers and two sisters. One of my sisters is married. We have five horses, eleven head of cattle, and thirty-nine pigs, four ducks, and some hens. We lost one fine colt last summer; she was two years old; and she

belonged to my eldest brother. I have no pets except a pup and a big dog that will draw me, as I made a harness for him and I hitch him up on fine days. My father is drawing posts, and they have fifteen miles to go, and it takes them all day to get a load. We see about seven teams a day going to the bush.

EZRA O. (age 14).

Grimston, Ont.

Dear Editor,—I wrote to the 'Messenger' once before, and it was consigned to the horrible waste basket, but I shall try, try again, and I hope my second attempt may not be nipped in the bud. Holidays are about over, but I do not care, as I like going to school. I was in the junior third class before vacation, but I tried the examination and passed. I will be in the senior third next term. Papa is in the North-West Territories, and we feel pretty lonesome without him. He went by the boat to Fort William, then by train the rest of the way. I expect we will all go to the North-West Territories. We get the 'Messenger' at Sunday-school, and we could not do without it. I enjoy reading the pretty stories and the correspondence. I saw a letter from a little girl whose birthday is the same day as mine, April 22, and she was the same age (twelve years).

GERTRUDE T.

Keward.

Dear Editor,—As I am sending an answer to your puzzle, I will write you a short letter. I take your 'Messenger,' and have taken it for one and a half year. We used to get it at the Hoath Head Sunday-school, but we moved from there three years ago. I think a 'Fight Against Odds' is a very nice story.

ISABEL M. F.

Athens, Ont.

Dear Editor,—As I have never written a letter to you before, I will now endeavor to write my first one. I hunted up all the verses that represent the quotations. I found that it was very pleasant work. It leads us to study our Bibles more. My home is in the village of Athens. It is a place of about 1,200 inhabitants. There are two schools here, a model and a high school. I passed the entrance this summer. I made 695 marks. The required number of marks was 550. The total was 1,100 marks. I intend to go to the high school. I have taken the 'Messenger' since last Christmas. My grandma sent it to me and my brother for a present. I think it is a very nice paper for the price.

EFFIE B. (age 13).

Kenmore.

Dear Editor,—I have, by being careful in reading the Epistle of St. James, found the verses that are required in the new competition. I think that it is a fine idea, besides being interesting to those engaged in it. Please send copies of the 'Messenger' to the addresses I am sending.

OLIVE P. (age 13).

Eel River, N.B.

Dear Editor,—I have taken the 'Messenger' for about two years now, and I could not do without it at all. I enjoy the stories very much, also the correspondence. I am a member of the M.L.C., and I have noticed a number of letters to this paper from members of the M.L.C. I am sending the texts in the Epistle of St. James which I thought corresponded to your list of quotations. I enjoyed the work very much. I live on a farm about one mile from Eel River Station, and always attend Sunday-school in the village.

FLORA M.

New Perth, P.E.I.

Dear Editor,—I saw letters from other girls in the 'Messenger,' and thought perhaps you would print mine. This is the first year I have taken your paper, but mamma used to take it when she was a little girl. My favorite authors are Gordon Stables and Henty. I like Dickens's 'David Copperfield' and Sir Walter Scott's works, too. I live in Summerside, but I

was in the country at my grandma's for vacation. I like going to school. There are eight rooms in the brick school that I go to. There are two other schools of two rooms each for the first two grades. There are ten grades. I am in the ninth grade. It is the one that grades into the Prince of Wales College. The other grade takes up the first year's work in college, and if you make over 75 percent of a yearly average you get a trustees' certificate which enables you to take up first-class work in college. I tried the matriculation examinations this year, but I do not know whether I passed or not yet. I will be thirteen years old in October. I think I had better stop writing now, since I have told you about all I can think of.

GLADYS F. MacI.

HOUSEHOLD.

A Mother's Influence.

A peasant on the Scotch coast had an unusually large brood of children, seven of them boys. He labored early and late in the fields, and contrived to keep the wolf from the door, but life was a hopeless, exhausting struggle against poverty and adversity.

The mother, too, worked early and late with all the cooking, washing and household drudgery of the humble home. There were many to clothe as well as to feed, and so scanty were the schooling facilities on that lonely stretch of coast that she herself taught the boys, one by one, to read and write. If there had been girls among the older children she would have had help in the housework. Her daughters were the youngest of the family, and only added to her cares when she was least able to endure them.

Weary and overworked as this Scotch mother was, she was always the light and the life of the household. It was a happy home because it was brightened by her cheerfulness and contentment.

When there was a boy old enough to read a book aloud there was entertainment for the family while she was sewing, and she taught her children to sharpen their wits by keen argument, and, above all, to think for themselves.

Then, too, this Scotch mother, while not a trained musician, had a deep, rich voice, and a stirring way of singing old-fashioned hymns. On Sunday evenings the Bible would be read aloud, and then she would sing one hymn after another while her brawny Scotch lads listened with eagerness and enjoyed the treat so keenly that they often complained because Sunday came but once a week.

The brood of children left the home nest one by one, and the mother died prematurely of overwork and anxiety. But she lived anew in the boys as they became successful men in various professions and callings; for, although at the outset they were poor and had little education, they had her buoyant hopeful nature, and had her fine qualities of mind.

One of them was a soldier, and was mortally wounded in a foreign campaign. The chaplain in the hospital told him he had only a few hours of life in reserve, and asked him if he had any religious faith.

'I never had anything else,' he replied. 'I can hear my mother now singing her Sunday night hymns on the Scotch coast!'

Another soon became a prosperous barrister, with a great reputation for learning and wit. He would have had a larger income if it had not been for a striking peculiarity. He invariably threw up a case when he was convinced there was no justice in it.

'I like to think of my dear old Scotch mother,' he would say, 'when I plead a case in court.'

Another was an earnest preacher. One was a doctor, with a metropolitan practice. Three were successful merchants, and one was a high-minded publisher. All were richly endowed with their mother's courage and mental resources, and all shared her deep religious nature.

'In many a temptation and crisis they