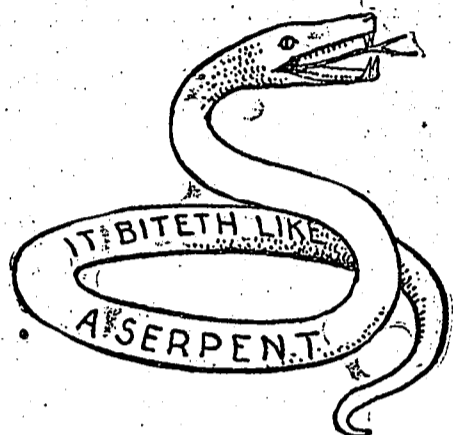


of all mankind; and that for his appearing we should be always ready.

52. Q.—What is the Christian's hope concerning the future state?

A.—We look for the life everlasting, wherein all who are saved through Christ shall see God and inherit the kingdom prepared for them from the foundation of the world.



Regulating the Rattlesnake.

A farmer once found a rattlesnake. Having caught it and put it in a bag, he carried it home and called his neighbors together, saying:

'Behold, I have captured a snake, and it is big and strong; now, what shall I do with it?'

Then one of the men said: 'This is a very harmless looking reptile. I think he might be allowed to go wherever he pleases.'

Another said: 'My friend, do you not know that this harmless looking serpent has a sting? Now, therefore, I move that all people, and especially young people, be warned faithfully to keep out of the way of the serpent, lest they be bitten.'

This counsel seemed to impress the assembly favorably.

Then a third speaker began in this wise: 'Since the bite of this reptile is so very dangerous, I would submit that it might be well to make certain rules and regulations; as for instance, that he is not to go abroad on the day called Sunday; that he must not be allowed to sting anybody who is not of age; moreover, that he shall not be let out of his cage at all until a council of citizens shall decide.'

'And, finally,' said the wise and thoughtful man, 'I suggest that an oath be administered to our neighbor, the keeper of the snake, that he will faithfully carry out these provisions.'

Now it came to pass that all the neighbors were so moved with these words that with one voice they cried out: 'So let it be.' And so the snake still lives.

Some time ago in India an officer who was parched with thirst was travelling with his Indian servant where water was scarce. It was evening time, and in that country the moon throws a peculiar light upon many things. The officer saw at the side of the road a pool of water that looked very clear. He was stooping down to drink when his servant called to him, 'Nay, nay, Sahib, lend me your sword.' Going to the pool the servant put the edge of the sword into it to stir it, when up came the head of a cobra, the most dangerous serpent in India. The servant then brought the weapon down upon the reptile and cut off his head. Had the officer drank of the pool, he would have been a dead man. There was death in the drink. How many the serpent drink is destroying every day in our great cities! Let us be servants for them and show them the work of the serpent. 'At last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder,' says the Bible. — Temperance Banner.

The Tramp's Speech.

A tramp asked for a free drink in a saloon. The request was granted, and when in the act of drinking the beverage, one of the young men present exclaimed:

'Stop! make us a speech. It is a poor liquor that doesn't unloosen a man's tongue!'

The tramp hastily swallowed down the drink, and, as the rich liquor coursed through his blood, he straightened himself and stood before them with a grace and dignity which all his rags and dirt could not obscure.

'Gentlemen,' he said, 'I look to-night at you and myself, and it seems to me I look upon the picture of my lost manhood. This bloated face was once as young and handsome as yours. This shambling figure once walked as proudly as yours, a man in the world of men. I, too, once had a home and friends and position. I had a wife as beautiful as an artist's dream, and I dropped the priceless pearl of her honor and respect in the wine-cup, and, Cleopatra like, saw it dissolve, and quaffed it down in the brimming draught. I had children as sweet and lovely as the flowers of spring, and saw them fade and die under the blighting curse of a drunken father. I had a home where love lit the flame upon the altar, and ministered before it; and I put out the holy fire, and darkness and desolation reigned in its stead. I had aspirations and ambitions which soared as high as the morning star, and I broke and bruised their beautiful wings, and at last strangled them that I might be tormented with their cries no more. To-day I am a husband without a wife, a father without a child, a man in whom every good impulse is dead. And all swallowed up in the maelstrom of drink.'

The tramp ceased speaking. The glass fell from his nerveless fingers and shivered into a thousand fragments on the floor. The swinging doors pushed open and shut again, and when the little group at the bar looked up the tramp was gone. — New Orleans Picayune.

Correspondence

St. Remi.

Dear Editor,—I thought I would write you a letter. We have taken the 'Messenger' a number of years. I like the Correspondence very much. I have three brothers. For pets I have a pussy named Fan.

ETHEL S. (Aged 11.)

Moose Jaw, Assa.

Dear Editor,—I once wrote a letter to the 'Messenger,' but never saw it printed. I go to school every day. There are sixty-four scholars in my room. Our school is a nice, large one, there are eight rooms and seven teachers. I belong to the Mission Band. I have two brothers and no sisters. I like the 'Messenger.' I read all the stories in it. I like living in the country better than in town.

FLORENCE MAY.

Morrowville, Kansas.

Dear Editor,—I take the 'Messenger,' and like it very well. We live on a farm, I have four cats and one dog, named Poodle. We go to Sunday-school at Morrowville. I was seven years old on Dec. 16, I have one sister and one brother. We have a nice little pony we all love to ride. It is black with a white face.

ALEXANDER.

Kelley's Cove.

Dear Editor,—I live quite near the sea shore, and in summer my sister and I go down to the wharf, and catch fish, and go in bathing. I saw in the 'Messenger' that F. B.'s birthday came the same day as mine, only I am a little older. My father is a farmer, and one day, when he was in town, he had the picture of the oxen taken.

ANNIE ALLEN, (Aged 15.)

Pembroke.

Dear Editor,—My mother has taken the 'Messenger' two years, and I think it is a nice paper. I have got three sisters and one brother. Two of my sisters are twins. I have got four pets, two cats, a horse and a hen. The horse's name is Harry. We have not had much skating this winter. I wonder who has got a birthday the same as mine, April 5. KENNETH R. B. (Aged 11.)

Underwood, Ont.

Dear Editor,—I am nine years old, and I have taken the northern Messenger for five years, and I like the paper very much. I go to school regularly. I was at the opening of the new Presbyterian Church at Tiverton, and heard Principal Grant, of Kingston University, preach.

F. JOHNSON.

Yorkton, Assa.

Dear Editor,—I enjoy reading the 'Messenger' very much. My grandma sends it to us. I have two sisters and one brother. My brother is seventeen months old. I go to school and to Sunday-school. I was ten years old on Jan. 5.

MABEL P.

Campbellton.

Dear Editor,—I live with my aunt and uncle in the country. I am twelve years old, my birthday is on Oct. 12. I take music lessons, and like it very much. I have three sisters, they live about thirty miles from here. I went home to see them at Christmas. I have a dog and three cats and two dolls. My dog's name is Carlo, he is pure black.

MYRTLE D.

Hamilton, Ont.

Dear Editor,—I have two sisters and one brother, and I go to school. We have a bird and a white cat. I go to Sunday-school and I get the 'Northern Messenger,' and I like it very much.

NELLIE, (Aged 11.)

Aberarder, Ont.

Dear Editor,—I think your paper is the nicest paper we take. My papa has taken the 'Messenger' about twenty-five years and the 'Witness' as long. I live on a farm. I have a little pup, I call him Turk, I have lots of fun with him. I like skating when the ice is good. I live near Lake Huron.

ROB. R.

Ocean View, P.E.I.

Dear Editor,—My brother Angus takes the 'Northern Messenger' and I like it very much. I go to school, I have a mile to walk, and I like my teacher. I have three brothers and one sister. I have a cat named Tip and a calf named Brindle.

MARY McL. (Aged 11.)

Spencerville, Ont.

Dear Editor,—I am seven years and six months old, and go to school every day. I have one brother, his name is Wallace, he is four years old. My father works at the North Channel on the St. Lawrence River. My mother has been dead for two years, I live with my Aunt Sarah, and grandfather and great-grandmother, who is in her ninety-first year. I go to the Presbyterian Church, and get the 'Messenger' every Sunday.

DEANE S. F.

Ferguslea.

Dear Editor,—Papa has been taking the 'Messenger' for a long time. I like to read the Correspondence part. I like to go to school, our teacher is very nice. Her name is Miss Wight. I have three little brothers.

JENNIE, (Aged 9.)

Dear Editor,—My mother takes the 'Messenger,' and likes it very much. I cut some wood to-day. Father has gone to the C. E. League. I have nine sisters and one brother. We are all temperance, and don't believe in sweet cider, or in taking whiskey or brandy for illness. We have none of us ever tasted intoxicating liquor. I have belonged to the Band of Hope for five years.

FRANK (Aged 10.)

St. John, N.B.

Dear Editor,—I had the present of the 'Messenger' for a year, and liked it so well that I thought I would continue taking it myself. I go to school every day, and I am in Grade V. I go to St. James's Church and Sunday-school. I will be twelve on March 10.

JESSIE M

Crosshill, Ont.

Dear Editor,—My sister and I have taken the 'Northern Messenger' for three years, and like it very much. I like to read the Correspondence very much. I have one brother twenty years old, and one sister twelve years old. I live one mile from Crosshill, and one mile from school.

JENNIE MAY C. (Aged 10.)