

BOYS' AND GIRLS' STORIES.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE BOYS
AND GIRLS OF THE PUBLIC
SCHOOLS OF CANADA AND
NEWFOUNDLAND.

NOVEMBER 20TH, 1889.

DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS,

We have been told that you enjoyed the DOMINION PRIZE COMPETITION, carried out by the Montreal *Witness* newspaper, very much, and that you are anxious for another one this year. The *Witness* was well satisfied with the results also, and its Publishers have decided to accede to this very general demand, and therefore ask you to read very carefully what follows:—

THE PRIZES.

We offer a series of seven sets of prizes:—

I.—A SCHOOL PRIZE to the writer of the best true story of an event that took place wholly or partly in the county in which the school is. This prize will be awarded by the teacher or any examiner he may appoint; or, if none can be found, by the Editor of the *Witness*. This school prize will be a copy of the *Northern Messenger* for a year. Last year 653 school prizes were awarded; this year we hope to award 5,000 at the very least.

II.—A COUNTY PRIZE to the writer of the best true story of an event that has happened wholly or partly in the county in which the school attended by the writer is. If the School Prize Winner secures a County Prize, the Editor of the *Witness* will select another story from that school, whose author will obtain the School Prize. The County Prize will be a copy of Light-hall's "Songs of the Great Dominion," the newest and best collection of Canadian poetry yet published, sold at \$1.25.

III.—A PROVINCE PRIZE for the best story selected from amongst the County Prize Stories in each Province. The winner of the Province Prize will not also obtain the County Prize for his county, but that will be given for the second best story in the county, which will also be awarded by the Province Judge. The Province Prize will be a copy of either Webster's or Worcester's Dictionary, as may hereafter be selected. For the purpose of this competition Ontario will be divided into two portions, the east and the west, and a Judge will be selected for, and a Province Prize given to, each. Newfoundland will rank as a Province.

IV.—THE CANADA PRIZE.—This will be for the best story selected from amongst the Province Prizes. The second best story from the Province securing this prize will obtain the Province Prize. Last year the Dominion Prize Judge was the Right Hon. the Marquis of Lorne.

We have written to Lord Lorne, who expressed so deep an interest in the last competition, asking him to be the Judge for this one. The Canada Prize will be a Bell Piano, price \$500.

V.—A "RECOGNITION" BADGE.—This year, as last, every competitor will receive a "Recognition" Badge or Book Mark, which will express the fact that the recipient was a competitor.

VI.—FIFTY PRIZES FOR SCHOOLS of a framed portrait of Her Majesty the Queen, to be hung up in the winning schools. This will be for the school which shows the best general results, neatness, good handwriting, number of stories, and all similar points being considered. These fifty prizes will be divided amongst the Provinces in proportion to the number of stories sent in from each, and will be awarded by the Province Judges.

VII.—A copy of the *Daily or Weekly Witness* will be sent for a year to the winner of the Canada, Province and County Prizes. This paper will contain many of the stories and much to interest competitors during the year. If a copy already goes to the residence of the winner, the subscription term will be extended for a year.

RECAPITULATION.

1 Canada Prize—A BELL PIANO, price \$500.
9 Province Prizes, worth \$12 each.
206 County Prizes (each city to be classed as a county).
A School Prize to each Competing School.
A Recognition Badge to every Competitor.
50 Prizes to Schools with best general showing as to number and character of stories.
The total value of these Prizes is about \$3,000.

THE CONDITIONS.

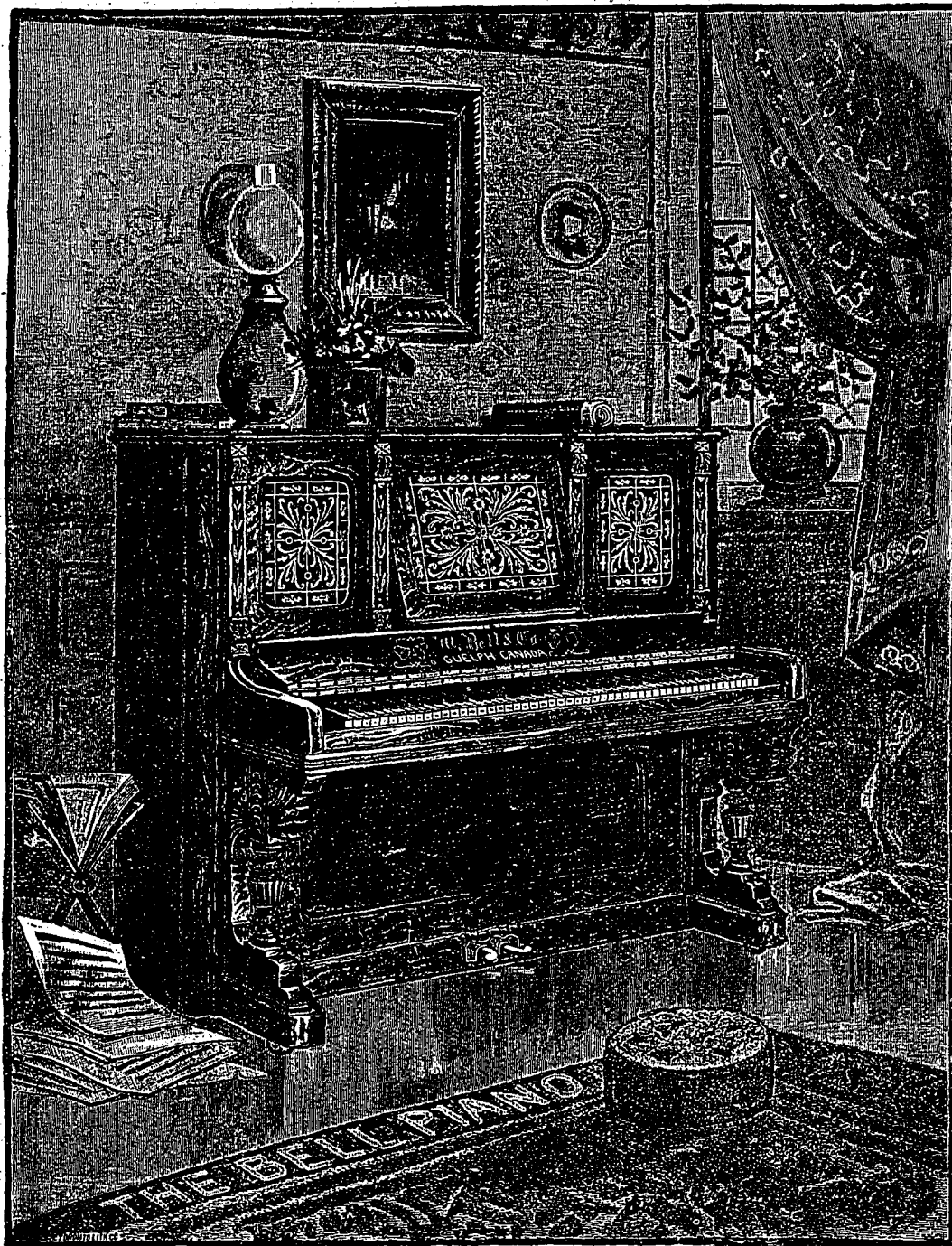
The stories must all be in the handwriting of the scholar; they must be true, or well-authenticated tradition; they must have happened wholly or partially in the county in which the narrator resides, except in cases where he resides in one county and attends school in another, when he shall have the privilege of choosing either as the scene of his story; no story should be longer than 2,000 words—the shorter the better; each story shall be certified by the teacher of the school as to the best of his belief, true or well-authenticated tradition, and that it is in the handwriting of the sender; the teacher shall also state, as far as he can in general terms, the assistance obtained by the writer; the writers may obtain the foundation for their stories from friends or from books, but must not be mere copyists, and in case of obtaining help from books, must give their authority, with edition, volume and page.

THE DATE.

The stories must all be mailed on or before February 28th, 1890, and the prizes, if possible, will all be forwarded in time to be distributed publicly before the midsummer holidays.

THE JUDGES.

Last year the Judges were:—
DOMINION.—The Right Hon. the Marquis of Lorne, P.C., G.C.M.G., K.T.
NEWFOUNDLAND, MANITOBA AND N.W.T., AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.—S. E. Dawson, Esq., Montreal.



THE CANADA PRIZE.

NOVA SCOTIA.—Dr. J. Hall, Provincial Normal School, Truro.

NEW BRUNSWICK.—A. A. Stockton, Esq., D.C.L., LL.D., St. John.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.—Mr. Justice Alley, Judge of the County Court of Queen's County, Charlottetown.

QUEBEC.—Dr. J. M. Harper, Inspector of Superior Schools, Quebec.

ONTARIO.—Wm. Houston, Esq., M.A., Parliamentary Librarian.

We are writing to ask these gentlemen to act as Judges again, with this difference, that their constituencies be changed, with the exception of Mr. Dawson, who resides a thousand miles or more from the nearest of the provinces under his charge, and who requires to be close at hand to make up for the time in reaching the distant provinces to the east and west. We propose to request Mr. Houston to judge for New Brunswick, and Dr. Hall for Western Ontario; the Judge selected to represent Nova Scotia is while Dr. Stockton will be requested to judge for Eastern Ontario; Dr. Harper to take Prince Edward Island, and Judge Alley, Quebec.

The reason for this contemplated change is not that there have been any complaints against the judgments last year, the whole number received being two, but that there will be greater freshness to the Judges, who may be able also to give some valuable hints from comparison with those of the previous year, and from looking on them from the point of view of one in a far away province.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The stories are to be written on one side of the paper only, the paper used to be a quarter sheet of foolscap, that is, six and a half inches deep by eight inches and a quarter broad. The sheets should be numbered and placed in order, and a back-sheet added, which will be sent from this office on receipt of two one-cent stamps. This sheet will contain ten short directions for preparing manuscript for the press, a blank teacher's certificate, and a form for endorsement. For the two one-cent stamps a sufficient number will be sent to supply any school. The story must then be folded over so as to be eight and a quarter inches long by three and a quarter broad, and enclosed in the backing-sheet, which must be endorsed with the name of the story, name of the writer, the school, county, P.O. address, and age of the writer, name of teacher and teacher's address. The blank teacher's certificate should be filled out and be signed by the teacher. The name and P.O. address of the writer should be signed at the bottom of each story.

The whole of the stories received during the last competition have been applied for, and will

find a resting-place in the archives of the Historical Society of Toronto University; and those you are asked to contribute will find an equally honorable position, not one of them being lost. The size prescribed and the margins left will enable them to be neatly bound and preserved for years, as a memento of what the Canadian school boys and girls did in 1889 and 1890. It will be an interesting thing for our young readers in after years to look up their stories.

And now we ask our young friends to enter with enthusiasm into this competition. They will find that their parents and friends will give them all the assistance they can to obtain records of events which have been nearly forgotten. The *Witness* now each week contains several stories which were sent in during the last competition, which may suggest to them incidents that may not have been previously looked upon as of sufficient interest to publish.

We respectfully request you and the teachers of every school to do your utmost to make a record in this competition. Some of the most interesting stories, although not the most correct in style, have been written by very young scholars. We want them all, no matter how youthful they may appear.

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A perfect copy of a picture which was sold by the artist for \$120,000 cash, a single copy being sent to any subscriber to the *Daily or Weekly Witness or Messenger* for 25 cents in addition to the subscription prices.

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JOHN DOUGALL & SON,
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