

THE BEST CHRISTMAS YET.

(Continued from Second Page.)

the store, but when Mamie and I opened the big Santa Claus bundle and took out the dolls, what do you think, but poor little Jessie said, "Oh! Oh!" then ran and bounced her head into her mamma's lap and cried hard, and Mamie, she cried, too. And, papa! Mamie and I want dreadfully to make you promise something—oh, will you, please—please?"

Mr. Burleigh smiled at the long recital, delivered almost in a breath, and ending with the pleading entreaty.

"Let me hear what it is first, little daughter," he said.

"Well, won't you always let us go without our Christmas presents, and give mamma lots of money for us to spend making other folks happy? The boys want to just as much as we do."

"We'll see, my little darling," said Mr. Burleigh, affectionately stroking the bright head, "we'll see."

"I never know before to-day," began Mamie, a womanly ring in her childish voice, "what a beautiful, beautiful place my home is. I never thought about the carpets, and the pictures, and the nice heat, and the table-cloths and silver, and, oh, all the beautiful, lovely things we have. "Papa," she added impetuously, "I think it would a-been awful wicked for us to have had presents to-day; I do, really!"

"Funny how we all feel about the house," said Joe, with an odd little smile. "Fred and I woke up when we came home this noon, and thought how beautiful it looked and felt."

Mr. and Mrs. Burleigh exchanged glances, then the father said, very softly;

"My precious children, you have had your first real experience to-day in doing good and testing the truth of the words of the Saviour, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' Then you have learned thus early a most useful, important lesson, which many persons fail to learn through a long life. In order to appreciate the blessings with which you are daily surrounded, go to the homes of those who are denied many of the bounties and mercies freely bestowed upon you by a kind heavenly Father."

"Oh, dear," said Bessie, with a prodigious yawn, "I hope I'll live to see a thousand Christmases and every one will be a 'give-away' day!"

"I hope they will," said mamma, cheerily.—*Ex.*

WHAT WILL THOU HAVE ME TO GIVE?

Mr. N. R. Cobb, of Boston, a prosperous merchant, adopted the following rule: To give from the outset one quarter of the net profits of his business; should he ever be worth twenty thousand dollars, to give one-half; and three-fourths if ever worth thirty thousand. This resolution he kept until his death, at the age of thirty-six, when he had acquired fifty thousand dollars, and was giving all his profits. Zaccheus gave one-half. When John Wesley's income was thirty pounds, he gave two pounds to the poor; when it was sixty pounds, he gave away thirty-two pounds; and when in the fourth year it was one hundred and twenty pounds, he gave ninety-two pounds. His prayer was, "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to give?" Shall we "give until we feel it?" My dear friends, this rule would not secure universal liberality, as some Christians could not give twenty-five cents without keenly feeling it—their avarice is so great.—*Robt. Randolph.*

A MERRY MERRY CHRISTMAS.

Our Christmas greetings this year look out from every page of our Christmas number and we would now close with the hope that the cordial relations existing between us and our readers in the past may long continue. We would also at this time wish special success to all our workers and express our belief that through their efforts we shall, before another year is over, reach many thousand more. In the meantime we cross the threshold of fifty thousand homes in this land of ours and wish every one, old and young, with all our heart,

A MERRY, MERRY CHRISTMAS.



"AN OLD FRIEND."

Oh, Santa Claus is a friend indeed,
The little ones love him dearly;
He knows so exactly what they need,
In the tiniest stockings his eyes can read
The wants of the owners clearly.

With thoughts of his gifts their dreams are bright
As they wonder where he is hiding,
And how he can do so much in a night,
From the realms of the Frost King cold and white
On the wings of the north wind riding.

There are presents for all in his splendid store,
But nobody feels quite certain
Which way he goes when his task is o'er,

Whether up the chimney or under the door,
Or through a chink in the curtain.

"We knew he would come," the children say
As they reckon their new-found pleasures;
"It wouldn't have seemed like Christmas Day
If Santa Claus had not found a way
To leave us some of his treasures!"

And grown-up children, who walk by sight,
Their innocent trust might borrow,
And leave their wishes in faith at night
Before the Giver of all delight,
To find them filled on the morrow!
—*Leisure Hour.*

ALL CANADA'S SCHOOLS

ARE INVITED TO JOIN IN A NATIONAL COMPETITION.

Stories of adventure, tales of success through greatest obstacles, of gallant endeavors which have resulted in failure equally honorable abound in this country. Farms and fortunes were not hewn out of the Canadian forests without the exercise of a heroism which must command attention and admiration wherever known. The old men and women who are telling these stories now to their children and grand-children are rapidly passing away; even their sons and daughters will soon leave us. No good Canadian story should be allowed to pass into oblivion. There are hundreds of them of sufficient interest to light the fire of genius. The *Witness* wants to gather them. We therefore set the task of recounting their country's glories and collecting the material for her history and poetry to the young people of the schools. Any good story, whether of trouble or of fun, any good description of pioneer life and surroundings, may be the groundwork of the tale which is to take the prize. There are in Canada and Newfoundland and counties as follows:—New Brunswick, 15; Prince Edward Island, 3; Nova Scotia, 18; Quebec, 60; Ontario (with districts), 48; Manitoba, 26; British Columbia (electoral divisions), 5; and counties as one, each, Alberta, Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, and Keewatin, and Newfoundland 2—180. There are also the cities of Charlottetown, St. John's (Nfld.), Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa, Toronto, Brantford, St. Catharines, Belleville, Guelph, Montreal, Hull, Sherbrooke (county and city), Quebec, Three Rivers, St. Hyacinthe, Halifax, St. John, Fredericton, Winnipeg, Victoria, 22, making a grand total of 203.

We offer to the school children of each county, or city, as a prize, "Macaulay's History of England," in five volumes, strongly and neatly bound in cloth, for the best true story of adventure or tale descriptive of pioneer life, the scene of which is laid in the county or city in which the narrator resides. But this is not all. The 203 stories which have won what we, for shortness, shall call "*Witness*

County Prizes," will be submitted to a commission in each province which will decide which of the number is considered the best, and award a "*Witness* Provincial Prize," which will be a complete set of Parkman's works, ten volumes in all, worth \$15. For this prize, Alberta, Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, and Keewatin, will be grouped with Manitoba.

These eight essays, which have been thus selected, will be then referred to some high authority and that which will be adjudged the best will receive a further prize of a Remington No. 2 Typewriter, with cabinet, which sells for \$125. This we will call the "*Witness* Dominion Prize."

In addition, to render the interest more general, a copy of the *Northern Messenger* will be sent for a year to the writer of the best story from each school, as decided by the teacher, but the teacher's judgment will not necessarily be followed by the judges of the county prizes. Further, every competitor will receive a card showing that he or she had a part in this great Dominion competition.

As it is almost impossible that any scholar would be able to obtain the necessary information without assistance the question of the amount of assistance which might be given would become a vexatious one. To simplify the matter, each competitor will be permitted to get all the assistance possible from any source whatever. But the story must be in the handwriting of the competitor, and the fact that the writer is a regular pupil of the school must be certified to by the head teacher thereof.

THE PRIZES.

1 Dominion prize, price..... \$ 125
8 Province prizes, at \$15..... 120
203 County prizes, at \$5..... 1,015
\$1,260

We hope to receive the assistance of teachers and trustees and all interested to make this competition most useful and interesting. Address all correspondence and requests for fuller information to

JOHN DOUGALL & SON,
MONTREAL, QUE.

(Dominion Competition.)

Question Corner.—No. 26.

PRIZE BIBLE QUESTIONS.

66. What prophecy in Jeremiah was fulfilled shortly after the birth of Christ, and how?
67. When was the prophecy in the first three verses of Isaiah LXI fulfilled?

THE CLOSE OF PRIZE COMPETITION.

Our prize Bible Questions close with this number, and we imagine all the workers and their friends are anxiously awaiting the results. We hope to be able to give them early in January. The number of competitors has far exceeded our expectations and the amount of work has increased accordingly. Send in your answers to these last just as soon after you receive the paper as you can possibly find them.

We close this competition with our best wishes to our young Bible Students for a Merry, Merry Christmas. Our New Year's greetings we will leave for our next number when we hope to be able to set before them a new plan for Bible study, something entirely different to what we have ever given them before, and which we think will prove even more pleasant than the work this year has been.

RENEW AT ONCE.

If your subscription ends with the year renew at once to prevent what is otherwise unavoidable loss of time in having your name taken off our books. When this is not done the subscriber is liable to lose a number or two and so render imperfect his yearly file. When you are renewing send the subscriptions of half a dozen of your neighbors as well, and so secure one of our premiums.

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CANADA:
PROVINCE OF QUEBEC,
District of Montreal.

SUPERIOR COURT.

Dame FRANCES EAGLESON, wife *communis* in biens of John Frederick Wolff, of the City and District of Montreal, Merchant, Plaintiff,

vs
The said JOHN FREDERICK WOLFF, Defendant.
An action *en separation de biens* was instituted in this matter on the 8th inst.
Montreal, 20th November, 1888.

BUTLER & LIGHTHALL,
Attorneys for Plaintiff.

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