



SIX BRAVE BOYS.

## SIX BRAVE SCHOOL BOYS.

There is, says the New York 'World,' a newly-made hero down in the little post village of Sandy Hook, Conn. He is Stephen Keane, a bright lad of fifteen years old. Stephen has been a valourous boy all his life, but it was not until last Monday that he became a real hero.

He and a party of his classmates from St. Michael's parochial school, at Sandy Hook, on that day went skating on Niantic mill-pond. In the party was Michael Keating, a boy of twelve years. Michael, venturing where the ice was thin, broke through and fell into the water. Stephen Keane cried:

'Form a "life-chain," boys, and we'll save little "Mike" easy.'

Lying flat, face downward, on the ice, he directed one of the boys to lie down as he had and hold tightly on to his ankles. The ankles of this one were in turn grasped by another lad, and so one until a 'life-chain' of six brave boys was formed.

Keane wriggled his way carefully out on the thin ice. Before him was poor Keating struggling for life. Once he went down, and still the first link of the 'life-chain' was crawling slowly on the ice far away. Down he went a second time.

'Hold tight, boys!' cried Keane. Just as the drowning boy was disappearing for the last time Keane seized his coat.

Crack! went the ice, and the first two links of the 'life-chain' were also in the icy water.

Finally all of the boys were dragged out, the worse only for a wetting.

When a crowd gathered about young Keane and showered praises on him for his forethought and pluck, he only said:

'I read in a newspaper how to do that trick, and I thought I'd try it.'

## OUR PRIZE WINNERS.

## THE 'MESSENGER' BIBLE COMPETITION.

The publishers of the 'Northern Messenger' have much pleasure in announcing the prize winners in their last Bible competition.

At Christmas time we offered six prizes for the best short account of the birth of Christ, and have had in reply one of the largest and most closely contested competitions of the kind we have ever had. There were six prizes offered—two Bibles, two volumes of biography and two subscriptions to the 'Northern Messenger.' After careful consideration the prizes have been awarded as follows:

## PRIZE WINNERS.

First (Senior) Prize—Cora May Sider, Sherkston, Ont.

Second (Senior) Prize—Florence Stevens, Eilershouse, N.S.

Third (Senior) Prize—W. E. C. Miller, Quebec.

First (Junior) Prize—Oliver Gladstone Steele, Vankleek Hill, Ont.

Second (Junior) Prize—Minnie Weir, Spencerville, Ont.

Third (Junior) Prize—Alfa Hoyle, Brougham, Ont.

## HONOR ROLLS.

There are also two large lists of names who are entitled to honorable mention. They are as follows:—

Senior Honor Roll.—Lucretius, Felix, Evangeline, Never Give Up, Florence Nightingale, Shamrock, Maple Leaf, Andrew Stewart, Flora Bigall, Penelope, Bessie, Eliza Cook, Bright-eyed Nancy, Snowdrop, A. K. Swal-

low, Agnes McNeil, Carita Law, Mabel, Elm, Birth of Christ, Rowena, Mary MacKinnon, Jean, Lilac, Liberty Lighthouse, Violet, Marion, F. Weir.

Senior, Special Mention.—Then there are a large number of competitors who, while not quite reaching the 'honor' mark, are well worthy of special mention. They are:—

Mary Nash, Mayflower, Castle Douglas, Jane Sanguins, Senior, Bluebellis, Ella Hutchison, Minnie Gilmore, Rosebud, Marguerite, Vera H. Fields, Rachel, Cathaline, Tilena E. Martin, Primrose, Puss Northy, Constant Reader, Snowball, Annie Routledge, Matthew Krauth, Mark Mane, Shamrock, George Atkinson, Frank Fairbank Speedie, Atha, Bijou, Violet, Jas. H. McCauley, Elmira Wilder, Cassie Shaw, Isabel.

Junior Honor List.—Buttercup, Daisy, Truth, Robin, Canada, Rex, Ophelia, Morag, Highland Bess, Trivia, Garnet W. Campbell, Novem, Maple Leaf, Mother's Baby, Rose Mary, White Heather, Aveline, Clansman, First Attempt, Little Roman, Milly, Birth of Christ, School Boy, Robin Hood, Bessie Try, Ira Pierce.

Junior, Special Mention.—Lulu, A Little Saxon, Florence, Jeanette, A. Mack, Napoleon Bonaparte, Daisy Dean, Grace Simpson, Floss, Minta V. Sayles, Amy, Emily Campbell, Fairy Carlton, Star, Vernon, Marjory, Dora, Crusoe, Preston W. Powers, Janie Gale, Eldon, Walter A. McLaren, Henry Kuhl, W. M., Lena Christie Annie O. Latimer, Bess Winter, Hazel, Avon, Ivy Green, Rosebud, Eleanor, Rebecca Warmington, Herbie Drysdale, Trilby, E. A. F., Pearl Legget, Willie Rose, Maud Kirby, May Burgess, Miss Christmas Tree, Mayflower, Lena Proctor, Mary McNea, Peter C. McNea, Little Boy Blue, Mayflower.

## THE PRIZE ESSAY.

We give below the essay which won the First (Senior) Prize.

## BIRTH OF JESUS.

By Cora May Sider.

Soon after Adam and Eve disobeyed God he promised to send his Son to earth to be the Saviour of the world. This Messiah was prophesied of by many of God's servants. He was to be a descendant of David, and therefore have a right to the Jewish throne. About four thousand years after the creation of Adam this promise was fulfilled.

At this time there lived in Nazareth a holy woman named Mary. One day the angel Gabriel came to her and told her that she was to be the mother of the Messiah, and that she should name the child Jesus. The angel also went to Joseph, a man of Nazareth and told him about it, and that he should take Mary as his wife, which he did.

Caesar, the Roman emperor, who now had possession of Palestine, made a law that everybody should be taxed. All the Jews went to the city of their forefathers for this purpose. Joseph and Mary also went to be taxed, and as they were descendants of David they went to the city of David, or Bethlehem. When they got to Bethlehem there was no room for them in the inn, and they had to go into a stable. While they were there Jesus was born, and he, the King of kings, had for his bed a manger.

The same night that Jesus was born there were some shepherds watching their sheep near Bethlehem, when suddenly there was a great light around them, and an angel stood by them. At first they felt afraid, but the angel told them not to fear, as he brought them the good news that the

promised Saviour was born in Bethlehem, and then there came a number of angels and praised God, saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and good will toward men.'

When the light and the angels were gone the shepherds said they would go and see the Saviour. When they came to Bethlehem they found Jesus in the manger. After they had seen him they returned to their work, praising God and telling all whom they saw the wonderful things they had seen and heard.

When Jesus was about forty days old his parents took him to the temple at Jerusalem to give him to the Lord, as the Jews did with the oldest son. When they came to the temple Simeon, a man of God, whom God had told he should see Christ before he died, said at once that this was Christ. And the prophetess Anna also praised God and said that this was the Saviour.

There were in the East some wise men who had heard from the Jews of the expected Messiah, and they also were watching for him. These wise men had studied astronomy, and about the time Jesus was born they saw a beautiful star which they had never seen before. They at once thought that this was a sign that the Saviour was born, and started out to find him, taking rich presents with them. When they came to Jerusalem they said, 'Where is he that is born king of the Jews?' When the wicked Herod, who was king of the Jews, heard them talking about this king he was troubled, for he thought perhaps his throne would be in danger. So he asked priests where Jesus was to be born. They told him in Bethlehem. He then told the wise men to go and find Jesus, and come and tell him where he was, that he might worship him also.

The wise men went to Bethlehem, the star leading them until it stood over the place where Jesus was. They then worshipped Jesus and gave him their presents and then went home, but they did not go to Herod, as God told them in a dream he only wanted to harm the child. After this Herod tried to kill Jesus, but God told Joseph to go into Egypt, where they were until Herod died, when they returned to Nazareth, where Jesus spent his childhood.

## ANOTHER PRIZE OFFER.

Look out for another prize offer in our next number.

## 'MESSENGER' CLUB RATES.

The following are the club rates for the 'Northern Messenger':—

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## THE LAND OF 'PRETTY SOON.'

I know a land where the streets are paved

With the things we mean to achieve;  
It is walled with the money we meant to have saved,

And the pleasures for which we grieve;  
The kind words unspoken, the promises broken,

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The land of 'Pretty Soon.'

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

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