

WYCLIFFE.

Died December 31st, 1884.

BY W. H. WITHROW, D.D., F.R.S.C.

BRIGHT morning star upon the front of time,
Glad herald of the dawn of glorious day,
Gleams, after age-long waiting, thy bright ray.
From mirkest gloom of midnight's deep abyme
O lambent light of dawn still higher climb!
Wrapped in that web of deepest darkness lay,
All the glad joys and hopes for which men pray,
Who wait the coming of day's golden prime.
Wycliffe's great gift all other gifts outshone—
The oracles of God in English speech,
The charter of a nation's liberty,
A gift beyond of gem or precious stone,
The Book of God, each English child to teach
And bless the far-off ages yet to be.
Toronto, Nov., 1884.

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Pleasant Hours:

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLKS:

Rev. W. H. WITHROW, D.D., Editor.

TORONTO, DECEMBER 27, 1884.

ON THE BORDER.

WITH varied emotions all await the New Year. One may neglect the observance of his birthday, but none ever regards the first of January with indifference. Before time shall sweep us beyond it, let us look back upon the promises made, the blessings bestowed, the sorrow endured, the lessons learned, and then, with hands uplifted, like the traveller who peers through the darkness to detect the lights which may cheer him on his way let us move onward steadily, as Providence ordains.

There is much to be done, in the face of the new year, if we would have it better than its predecessors. The New Year's efforts at reformation that shall prevail are those that come from within and not those that are put on like a garment or tied on like the fruit on our Christmas trees. No mere indolent wish can accomplish our purpose. We must consider the past and take into account the days and years which are set down as investments in the Master's books, and for which a settlement, including both principal and interest, will be demanded. Those who are wise will seek an interview with the Master. If the account is all against them they should go into

human bankruptcy, and, pleading the mercy of God in Christ Jesus, give up all they have and are and begin a new account with the new year, in the strength of Omnipotence.

THE METHODIST MAGAZINE—
WHAT ITS PATRONS
SAY OF IT.

ONE of the great gratifications of Editorial life is the marks of appreciation of one's labours, and the kindly greetings and expressions of approval one receives from unknown correspondents. We have had many such expressions, for which we feel very grateful. We take the liberty to quote part of one such letter from a gentleman who occupies a distinguished educational position, with whom, at the time, we had not the pleasure of being personally acquainted:

"I can assure you," he says, "that we fully appreciate the efforts you are putting forth to supply the people of this Dominion, and particularly the Methodist portion of it, with a magazine possessed of real literary merit, and pervaded by a pure and high religious tone. In these days when so many of our young people are having their minds poisoned, and their religious feelings deadened, by reading publications of doubtful orthodoxy, and thinly disguised sceptical tendencies, it is very gratifying to find your Magazine standing firmly by the grand old truths of the Gospel. I have found this Magazine an invaluable assistant in the education of my family, by cultivating in the younger members a love for reading, and at the same time indelibly impressing upon their minds the great fundamental truths of our common Christianity. I am strongly in sympathy with the object you have in view. We are anticipating a pleasant time from the monthly visits of your Magazine, and trust that it will surely work its way into every Methodist, and, I may say, Christian family, in the land."

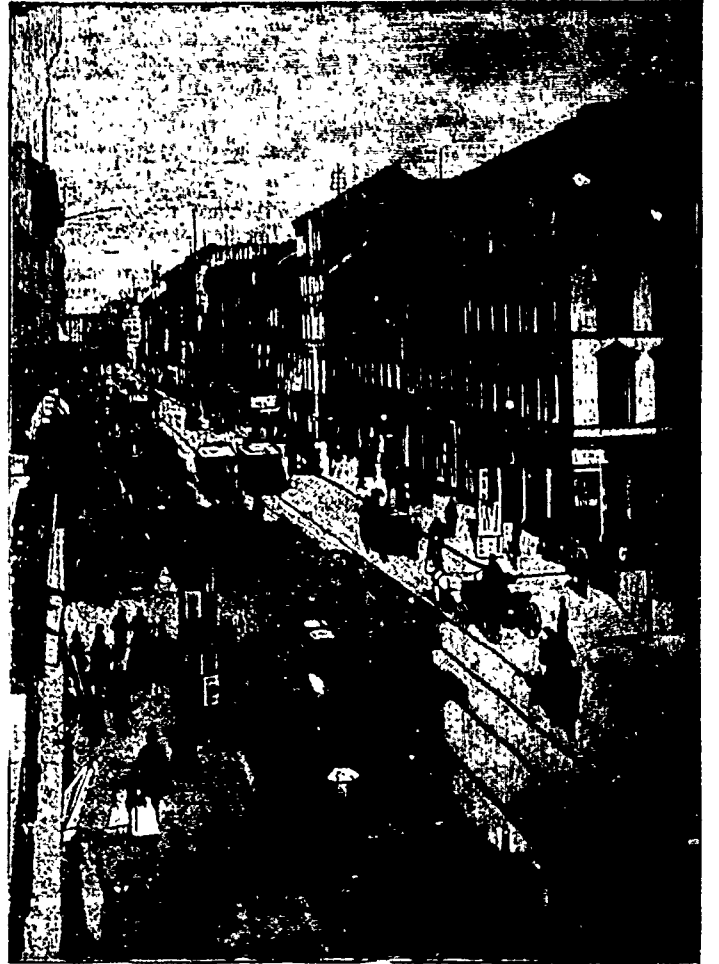
From the fact that most of our patrons continue to subscribe for the Magazine year after year, many of them from its very beginning, we judge that the opinion above expressed is not an exceptional one. With the unrivalled announcement and premium for 1885 we expect to very largely increase the number of our readers.

"LOOSE THEM, AND LET
THEM GO."

VISITORS to York Minster, England, will remember the crypt which is pointed out as the place in which the golden statues of the twelve Apostles were kept, on seeing which the sturdy old warrior, Oliver Cromwell, uttered the sentence at the head of this paper. Of course the command was obeyed, and immediately the statues were removed and melted into coin which was put into circulation for the good of the realm.

Are there not thousands of volumes in our Sunday-school Libraries, which are not even useful as ornaments, for they are no longer in demand, having been already read, and they are put into a dark corner as useless lumber, and will soon become mildewed and may be moth-eaten.

If we possessed the authority of Oliver Cromwell, we would issue our



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mandate and say, "Loose Them, and Let Them Go." There are many schools in the poorer localities of our large and growing Dominion as well as in Newfoundland where the said books would be most gladly received. Since the formation of the Sunday-school Relief and Extension Fund of the Methodist Church over ten thousand volumes which were no longer needed in schools, particularly in the cities of Ontario and Quebec as well as the Maritime Provinces, have been sent to localities which, but for them, would have been without Sunday-school Libraries.

Let the Superintendents of Sunday-schools who may be replenishing their libraries this season, send the books which they no longer require to the Rev. Dr. Withrow, Methodist Book Room, Toronto, and he will repair such as may be somewhat worn or defaced, and, with the addition of a few new books, he will send them forth on their errands of mercy. He has in his possession many letters which he has received acknowledging the receipt of books thus sent among the fishermen of Newfoundland, the poor struggling settlers in Muskoka, and the hardy pioneers of the great North-West. "Loose Them, and Let Them Go."

E. B.

A GENTLEMAN sends Dr. Sutherland, Missionary Treasurer, \$1, the gift of his little boy eight years old, from his own earnings, for the poor Indian boy described in PLEASANT HOURS for November 1. Other monies have also been elicited by the same article. Dr. Sutherland will be glad to receive more contributions for "That Boy."

OUR Wycliffe articles commemorate the five hundredth anniversary of the death of the "Morning Star of the English Reformation."

BERLIN, the capital of the German Empire, is one of the most magnificent cities in Europe. Its palaces and its

seven hundred public buildings and its monuments are among the most imposing. It is the seat of the imperial court, and the old emperor, aged over eighty, is the most venerable figure. The principal street is called *Unter den Linden*,—"Under the Lindens," from the magnificence of these noble trees with which it is lined. It is another populous thoroughfare in one of the newer regions that is shown in our cut. It might almost be taken for a street in Liverpool or London or New York were it not for the German names on the signs. The bulletin kiosks on the sidewalk are a feature very common in Paris. The street railway is everywhere in Rome, Naples, Alexandria and Cairo, and will, I suppose, be in Jerusalem soon. This cut is one of a large number illustrating the different capitals of Europe, which will appear in the *Methodist Magazine* for 1885. Among other cities so illustrated will be London, Berlin, Vienna, Cologne, Rome, Venice, Athens, Madrid, etc. The whole series will prove very interesting and instructive. In order that the Magazine may be brought within the reach of every school a special discount of twenty per cent. will be given to schools.

The January number now ready, contains a portrait and life sketch of Mr. Moody; also splendidly illustrated articles on Mr. Gladstone at home, the Ice Palace at Montreal; Canadian Pictures by the Marquis of Lorne; the Cruise of the Challenger, and illustrated poem by Dr. Punshon, etc. This is the handsomest Magazine ever printed in Canada. Send 20 cents for a specimen.