

Correspondence

Inglewood, Newfoundland.

Dear Editor,—I saw in the 'Messenger' of April 11, a picture of Lord Nelson's battleship, 'Victory.' My father's great-grandfather, Daniel Sellars, served as an officer under Lord Nelson for seven years and nine months, and was with him in several engagements. In after years he settled down in Western Bay, Newfoundland, where he has a good many descendants living. My grandfather, who is a grandson of the old warrior, is lighthouse keeper on Random Island, the largest island in Newfoundland.

SADIE B. C. (age 10).

New Boston, Iowa.

Dear Editor,—As this is my birthday, I thought I would write you a letter. I think the springtime is the nicest time of all the year. Don't you? The birds are singing their sweetest songs, and the wild flowers are all in bloom. We had a nice time here on Arbor Day. We all helped to plant a nice elm tree in the yard. We named it William McKinley, after our late President. Our school closed on May 6. We had a picnic in the schoolyard. We all had a nice time. But the best time of all was April 29. Our President was at Keokuk, our nearest large city, fifteen miles from here. I did not go, but my brother Hubert did. The President spoke for about twenty minutes at the park. There were men on every side taking his picture. Nearly everyone said that those who did not go to see President Roosevelt had not missed a street fair, or a Fourth of July celebration, but the grandest celebration the city of Keokuk had ever held. I wonder what all the people are finding to do away up there in Canada? Here most of the people are preparing the ground for planting corn. If we do not have oranges here to waste, like they have in California, we have fun in winter snow-balling and coasting. We don't have to go to the tops of mountains to get the snow either. California is a nice state, though, and I wouldn't mind living there, if I could live near the ocean, where I could see the big waves and gather shells. Wouldn't we have some fun, though, if we were all of us together some winter day after a big snow storm? The first thing we would do would be to pelt each other with snow.

ETHEL H. (age 15).

Narrows, N.B.

Dear Editor,—I received the Bible and the picture, 'Christ before Pilate,' and I like them very much. I live on the Washademoak Lake, about fifty miles from St. John, and it is quite a pretty place here in summer. I go to school, and I am in the fourth book. I have taken three quarters of music lessons. My birthday is on September 2.

MABLE L. T. (age 11).

Bonavista, Nfld.

Dear Editor,—I live near the sea. Sometimes when it is rough the spray is dashed upon our house. I like to go on the water very much. Last summer I was out to my father's cod-trap and saw the fish in it. I have got one prize, 'Uncle Tom's Cabin,' which I got in school for reading and reciting, and another, 'Headless Harry,' which I got in Sunday-school.

LUCY H. A.

Magnetawan, Ont.

Dear Editor,—As I have not seen any correspondence in the 'Messenger' from here, I thought I would write. Magnetawan is a very pretty little village through which the Magnetawan river runs. Many tourists come here in the summer months and go to the tourist houses down the river. A steamboat carries the mail in the summer, and the stage carries it in winter. Our teacher has been teaching here for six years. We have a Junior and a Senior Christian Endeavor here every Tuesday night. I belong to the Junior Christian Endeavor. Our first Superin-

tendent went away to California, and we have a new one. The mid-summer holidays begin here on June 23, and school starts again on the third Monday in August. We are going to have the entrance and leaving examinations here. I am going to try the entrance.

VIOLA (age 13).

Keldon, Ont.

Dear Editor,—My home is about ten miles from Shelburne. We did live in Honeywood, and my papa kept a store there for five years, and then he got sick and had to sell out. Then we all went up to Muskoka for a month, thinking the change would do him good; but he got worse and died. I have two brothers. Harry is six and Walter is my baby brother, three years old. We have a horse named Jim, and I have a cat, whose name is Pansy. Harry and I also have two air rifles papa bought for us when we were at Muskoka, and we have lots of fun with them. I go to the Presbyterian Sunday-school, and get a great many pretty cards. We had a tea meeting, and I gave a recitation entitled 'I'm going back to Grandpa.' I am in the second grade at school.

WILLIE Y. (age 9).

Guelph, Ont.

Dear Editor,—I thought I would write and tell you about our agricultural college. It is situated about a mile and a half south-east from the city. The main building, which is very large, is made of stone, and there are many other buildings near it. The grounds are well kept. Very large lawns are all around the buildings, and the grass is all kept short in summer. Plenty of flowers are grown, and great varieties of trees are to be found all over the farm. It consists of six hundred and fifty acres of land. There are a great many different departments. Some of the most interesting departments are dairy, poultry and flowers. The college is used for training young men in the right methods of farming. The best time to visit the college is in June, for the grain and flowers then look their best. Hundreds of strangers come here every year to visit it. Mother takes the 'Messenger,' and I like it very much. My birthday is on Sept. 16.

ETHEL I. C. (age 13).

And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.—Rom. xii., 2.

O Church of Christ, redeemed by precious blood.—I. Pet. i., 18-19; Eph. v., 25-27; Eph. iii., 10.

Break this alliance, glorify your God!—I. Cor. vi., 20; II. Cor. vi., 14-18; Eph. iii., 21.

Forsake the Christless World that lures to ill.—Rom. xii., 2; Heb. xiii., 13; Rev. xviii., 4.

Thou mayest be blessed and prove a blessing still.—Gen. xii., 2; Psa. cxxviii., 5; Eph. i., 3.

Away with ease and dalliance and play. Isa. xxxii., 9; I. Cor. x., 7; Rom. xiii., 11.

The Great Commission now in haste obey.—Mark xvi., 15; John xvii., 18; II. Tim. iv., 1, 2.

In holiness and zeal thou canst excel.—I. Pet. i., 15, 16; Rev. iii., 19; Gal. iv., 13.

And save the perishing from sin and hell.—Luke xiv., 23; Jas. v., 19, 20; Jude xxii., 23.

Gird on thy robes with purity impearled.—Rev. vii., 14; Rev. xvi., 15; Rev. xix., 8.

And keep thyself unspotted from the World.—Jas. i., 27; John iii., 3; I. Tim. v., 22.

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HOUSEHOLD.

The Father's Day at Home.

(Isaac Ogden Rankin, in the 'Congregationalist'.)

Since the Sunday activities of children are to be reckoned with, the father's choice is whether he will hold himself aloof from them or share them with his children. He will assuredly have small success in directing them from without, but he may become their guiding spirit, if he is willing, in frank comradeship, to share them from within. He may regard his own ease and comfort too much to be willing to make the sacrifice, if it is a sacrifice, to enter into the real thoughts and life of his sons and daughters and rejuvenate himself in their companionship, but he may be sure that reward and fulfillment of his fatherhood are to be obtained upon no other terms.

These, then, are the conditions of the problem: a day set apart for the enjoyment of rest, worship and service; children in the home whose fresh activities may be guided; a father who is too busy six days in the week to devote much time to child study or child training. How shall that father coin his first-day leisure into happiness and profit for his children? Where shall his own need of rest claim its right? By what wise economy of strength and time shall Sunday be made the crowning day of all the week, anticipated with delight and fondly remembered in all the later years of life?

First of all, this companionship of the father with his children must include worship. Habits are not transmitted; they are taught, and taught most quickly and effectively by example. One of the greatest hindrances to spiritual life in America to-day is the fact that fathers are too weary to be worshipful. But worship rightly used is rest. Let a father who desires that his children shall have the joy of reverence save energy enough from the tasks of the week to go to church on Sunday morning with a quiet heart. And why should he not share the children's work or study in the Sunday-school? If he largely delegates religious instruction to the teacher, as so many do, ought he not at least to keep track of the work that teacher is doing?

If the sermon is discussed only to be found fault with, and the Sunday-school teaching is never discussed at all, how can the father wonder that he has no opening of understanding on religious subjects with his child? And this companionship of worship should invariably include the common occupancy of a pew. The true unit of the church is the family, and the example of united families sitting together for worship week by week is one of the best witnesses to the world for Christ.

Companionship of Sunday recreation affords another opportunity to the father. His comradeship should extend to all departments of the children's lives. My own feeling is that Sunday recreation should as much as possible be taken out of doors. In the country the Sunday afternoon walk, in which father, mother, guests and children go quietly and joyfully by wood or meadow paths to scenes which they have always known and loved, is one of the happiest times of the week. The study of God's great book of creation supplements the study of the written Word. The sense of God's presence felt in the church sanctifies and glorifies the earth. There is room for quiet talk and innocent enjoyment; and what is an outlet for the child's natural and innocent activity becomes a refreshment for the father's weariness. In the city the problem is more difficult, but the best streets are always open and parks are often within reach. But, in city or country, recreation should be for the family group and become the father's opportunity of comradeship and teaching.

I do not believe in Sunday visiting, but there are exceptions which certainly come