

Bells of Christmas.

BY ROSE H THORPE.

RING, ring, joyfully ring;
Christmas brought us a Saviour and King,
Best of all presents sent from above,
Gift of the Father, given in love,
Sent to the royal king on his throne;
Sent to the beggar dying alone;
Sent to the world, oh! let the news roll
O'er the waste places, from pole to pole.
Ring the glad tidings, Jesus is King;
Ring, bells of Christmas, joyfully ring.

Chime, chime, merrily chime
Joy to the children at Christmas-time.
Fill up the measure of love complete,
Fill up the stockings brim-full of sweet;
Bright little stockings all rainbow spanned—
May each child in this beautiful land
Share in the blessings of Christmas-time;
Share in its happiness—chime, bells, chime.

Toll, toll, solemnly toll;
Over some heart the dark billows roll,
Some home is lonely, shadowed in doubt,
Sunlight and hope gone utterly out.
Father of mercies, open the way,
Send them the peace of Thy love to-day.
Hope for the hopeless came Christmas morn,
'Twas for the sinner Jesus was born,
Jesus, the holy Saviour and King;
Ring, bells of Christmas, merrily ring.

—From "The Yule Log."

OUR PERIODICALS.

THE YEAR—POSTAGE FREE.

Christian Guardian, weekly	\$2 00
Methodist Magazine, 96 pp. monthly, illustrated	2 00
Magazine and Guardian, together	3 50
The Wesleyan, Halifax, weekly	2 00
Sunday School Banner, 82 pp. 8vo., monthly	0 60
Under 6 copies, 65c.; over 6 copies	0 60
Canadian Scholar's Quarterly	0 08
Quarterly Review Service. By the year, 24c. a dozen; \$2 per 100; per quarter, 5c. a dozen; 50c. per hundred.	
Home & School, 8 pp. 4to, semi-monthly, single copies	0 20
Less than 20 copies	0 25
Over 20 copies	0 22
Over 500 copies	0 20
Pleasant Hours, 8 pp. 4to., semi-monthly, single copies	0 20
Less than 20 copies	0 25
Over 20 copies	0 22
Over 500 copies	0 20
Berean Leaves, monthly, 100 copies per month.	5 50
Sunbeam—Semi-monthly—when less than 20 copies	0 15

Address: **WILLIAM BRIGGS,**
Methodist Book and Publishing House,
78 & 80 King Street East, Toronto.
C. W. COATES, 8 Bleury Street, Montreal.
S. F. HUESTIS, Methodist Book Room, Halifax.

Home & School:

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

TORONTO, DECEMBER 8, 1883.

Getting Ready for Christmas.

BY EDWARD EGGLESTON.

ABOUT this time every year it behooves me to rise and speak. I like to see children have a good time; and so many schools make mistakes in their Christmas festivities, that I, who am the lover and champion of children's plays, if you choose to say so, feel called upon to say some things, if not others. I venture to hint that my time has come, and that the oranges and Christmas carols, and the good time must be attended to. But for the sake of giving my words a sufficiently solemn air, I also will have my firstly, secondly, and so on.

1. Do not wait too late to get ready. Sunday-school play should be without confusion.

2. Do not make too serious a time of Christmas. Christmas services are good enough, but a Christmas service ought to be very short. I know that we celebrate the birth of the dear Christ; but is it good to celebrate it by sitting down on the sweet spontaneous happiness of children with a

responsive service and other exercises stretching out an hour,—a weary hour to little people! Read responsively the account of the annunciation in Luke, and then sing, and sing the sweetest things you can find. Let your prayers be short, and mostly praises.

3. Do not be too instructive. There is a time to teach, and there is a time to refrain from teaching. If you will devote the Christmas holiday time to infusing joy into the heart, and so to winning the love, you will do better than to waste instruction on unwilling ears. If you have anybody that can amuse the children, bring him on with the apples and pop-corn.

4. Do not give out prizes. Rewards for a specific work are good enough; but a prize to the best, that gives pangs of envy to the defeated ones, is an aid to the devil.

5. Let your refreshments be simple and wholesome. Do not make mere feeding the chief attraction of the festivities. But please the imagination also with dialogues and decorations.

6. Do not try to give expensive presents to all. Unless your school is very rich, it will seriously cramp your work; and it is not best for the children that you give articles of considerable money value. Besides, we thought to change from the coloured cards we have given every year, but we have found nothing at once so cheap and so beautiful as Prang's cards, which range from one cent to twenty-five cents apiece. We have always used the floral cards; but the new designs for this year are many of them lovely figure pieces, that are very tempting to the eye of one who likes to give children happiness. I think what put me in love with them was the stanzas in some of them:

"Anew the olden story lives,
We long for that high living
Whose impulse through the ages lives,
And spends itself in giving.

"Sweet Christmas bells, sing in our hearts
This brave, sweet tune forever,
Till all our earthly days shall shine
In light of high endeavour."

7. Do not spend money on expensive boxes for your candies. The ladies can make little satchels of tulle in the form of cornucopias or stockings that will serve every purpose. We have to use brown-paper bags, because we are like the old woman that lived in the shoe.

8. Postscript—Do not forget Christ's brethren the poor. Do not treat your mission scholars less well than your own children. At Christmas time, "remember the forgotten." The merriest Christmas is the Christmas of him who, like Christ, makes other people glad.

An Old Friend.

We are glad to learn that the Rev. Jacob Freshman, late of the Montreal Conference, is very successful in his mission to the Jews in New York City. He has just returned from a brief visit to England, is addressing himself again to his work with renewed zeal. While in London he observed the methods employed in similar work in that city, and was greatly encouraged by the large results there attained. He has brought back with him two young men—Hebrew Christians—to assist him in his efforts here. Services

have been commenced in Room 24, Cooper Union, and a gentleman has offered to pay the rent of the hall for a year. Regarding the building fund, Mr. Freshman says: "We are looking at a house valued at \$20,000. We can get it for \$18,000. The gentleman wants \$5,000 down, the rest at low interest. Toward the \$5,000 we have \$2,000 in hand, including \$1,000 contributed by the late William E. Dodge. We want \$3,000. We are holding prayer-meetings, and pleading with God to send us that amount."

He adds: "With regard to our own living, we may just say that we take no salary, and have no private means. We began in faith, and are led more and more in that way; we are dependent entirely upon the free-will offerings of the Lord's people. These offerings must be distinctly stated as for *personal use*, otherwise they will invariably be put into the General Fund."

Free-will Offerings for the "Hebrew-Christian Work" may be sent to the Rev. Jacob Freshman, 25 Seventh street, New York; or to A. D. F. Randolph, Esq., 900 Broadway, New York. Mr. Randolph is the well-known publisher of high class religious literature.

THE Sabbath school Convention at Cobourg last month was well attended, and the capital addresses given must have roused an enthusiasm that will bear fruit in more earnest and active work in the future. Rev. Alfred Andrews furnishes the *Guardian* a capital letter on the lessons of the Convention, the substance of which we give in another column.

ALTHOUGH we printed a very large edition of the special Luther Number of *Pleasant Hours*, so great was the demand for it that the entire edition was soon exhausted and cannot now be furnished. The Christmas numbers of *Pleasant Hours* and *HOME AND SCHOOL* will be of special interest, full of Christmas Pictures, Poems, and Stories. Only \$1 per hundred. Send orders early to make sure of getting them. Schools sending new orders now for S. S. papers for 1884 will receive the numbers for the rest of the year gratis, including the special Christmas Numbers.

Book Notices.

By-Ways of Literature. By DAVID H. WHEELER, LL.D. (late Editor of the *New York Methodist*), President of Allegheny College. Published in Funk & Wagnalls' Standard Library, No. 100. Price 25 Cents. Rev. Wm. Briggs, Agent for Canada.

A series of Essays on things old and new, in the customs, education, character, literature and language of the English-speaking people of the last fourteen centuries. In tracing these changes, Dr. Wheeler has brought out



THE CHRISTMAS TREE.

in a pleasant, animated manner—not in the didactic style of a text-book—many amusing and trite incidents which cannot fail to enlist hearty interest. He gives us what general history leaves unnoticed—a clear portrait of the *thought* of old-time English people. This is a most interesting and instructive book.

Martin Luther. A popular, scholarly, and reliable life of the great Reformer, based on Köstlin's extensive work. By PROF. W. REIN, Eisenach, Germany. Published in Funk & Wagnalls' Standard Library, No. 101. Price 25 Cents. Rev. Wm. Briggs, Agent for Canada.

The 400th Memorial Celebration of Luther's birth is exciting a world-wide interest. As an historical character only, his life is worth of the most careful study; all Christendom has shared in the untold blessings, ecclesiastical and civil, which have followed his sublime labours for God and man. A book which will present, in popular, clear and attractive style, an unbiased record—not estimate—of the man as he spoke and acted, is the need of the hour. This the present volume fittingly supplies. It presents its subject in so attractive a manner that the interest never flags. We greatly err if it does not prove the best popular life of the great Reformer ever printed in the English language.

We begin our Christmas readings two weeks ahead of time. The next number will be very rich.

THERE is nothing like strong common sense. An Irish soldier went to his station with the order to report anything remarkable that had happened during the night. A drunken fellow fell off the wall, and broke his neck, and no report was made. When questioned about it Pat replied, "Faith, and I obeyed orders. If the man had fallen off the wall, and not broken his neck, I should certainly have reported it."