

do differently this new year that is just coming. Why can't we all pray together that our papa's will spend their evenings at home?" Emma said.

"We can, of course," answered Dora Hooper, earnestly. "Can't we kneel right down together by the sofa and each pray silently?"

"Yes, we can, surely; there's no one around to laugh at us, and if there were, there's nothing to laugh at, because three little girls kneel down together to pray for their fathers," Maud said tremulously.

Mr. Hughes, still looking at the group (now with kneeling forms and bowed heads, golden, brown and black, close together), had no inclination to laugh, indeed tears, long unknown to his eyes, were trickling, in quick, hot drops down his cheeks.

"Ah! the darlings, bless them!" his heart said. It was the first prayer he had said in long, wandering years, but it was heard and answered.

New Year's came. I could not, if I would, tell you of the smiles and the prayers, and the great rejoicings in three homes that day. And there was cause for rejoicing, for right on the threshold of the glad new year, "*The Lord brought back His Own.*"

"I'll never forget that tableau, Lizzie," Mr. Hughes said privately to his wife, "Those three little girls, only twelve years old, kneeling together, begging the Lord for their fathers' company. I've signed the pledge, Lizzie, and, God helping me, I'll be a husband and father worth having after this.

Lizzie Hughes' arms were about her husband's neck.

"Oh! what a glad new year! what a glad new year! And we can thank the children, for it was their prayer which brought us this great joy."

"Yes, their earnest prayers brought three wanderers home. Capt. Hall was completely broken down when I related the scene to him. 'What! my little Emma down on her knees praying for her sinful father's company? God bless her! she shall have it.' And he signed the pledge, and so did Hooper, tears in their eyes and prayers upon their lips as they wrote their names."

"Bless the children!" Mrs. Hughes said fervently.—*Ernest Gilmore.*

General News.

CANADIAN.

There is much excitement in Toronto over the discovery of some dynamite cartridges under the Ontario Parliament Buildings.

The parties accused in the famous conspiracy case were arraigned in the Assize Court. The counsel for the defendants objected to the indictment, and it was decided, with the consent of the crown counsel, that upon a writ of *certiorari* the demurrer should be argued before the full Court of Queen's Bench.

The Local Legislature adjourned to-day till the 26th of May. The delegates, Norquay, Miller and Speaker Murray leave for Ottawa in a few days to present the Manitoba Bill of Rights. Mr. Miller has business with Hon. Oliver Mowat in the matter of the boundary question.

Advices from British Columbia state that a number of Chinamen, discharged from work on the Canadian Pacific Railway, made an attempt to wreck a train near Nicomen, on the main line. Thousands of Chinese are now in that province. They are out of work and are constantly committing outrages against life and property. Many of them are smuggling themselves across the line into the United States.

The Department of Marine and Fisheries has purchased the screw steamer *Edsall* for the work of surveying the Georgian Bay. Tenders were invited, and her's was the most advantageous offer. A new sounding steam engine, made by Brush & Co., of Montreal, will be placed on her deck and other repairs made. She will be ready to leave St. Catharines in about ten days, whence she will proceed to Georgian Bay for the work of the season.

Gold in large quantities is said to have been discovered upon Mr. McLaughlin's farm, in the township of Kaladar, forty miles from Kingston. Considerable of the precious dust has been brought here.

At Port Colborne, on Tuesday, the Grand Trunk freight train going west struck a woman named Mrs. Cook, wife of a farmer living near this place. Her leg and arm were cut off and other injuries sustained, and she died in a few minutes. She leaves three children.

At Midland, last week, several yachts, with pleasure parties left for various points. The boat which went to Victor Harbor contained ten persons. On returning they were upset about half a mile from Victoria Harbor, but they were all rescued. Another party of twelve, which left for Present Island, when returning were upset about midway between Flat Point and "Wait a Bit" Point. They were in the water about an hour and a half before assistance reached. W. H. Davis and Jos. Stewart were returning from Mushkosh and heard cries for assistance, and immediately put to the rescue. Before this, however, Richard Smith went out with a skiff and rescued G. A. Griffith and Wm. Hastings. About fifteen minutes before Davis and Stewart reached them Charlie Hastings had died and was lying on the boat about four feet under water. Smith returned with his skiff and with Davis conveyed the remainder of the party to Davis' yacht, where Wm. Cann, agent for the Great North-Western Telegraph Company here, and a commercial traveller named Frank Pease, of E. Pease & Son, Toronto, died. The remainder of the party are doing well. The weather was squally.

Reports from Cote St. Paul say that the men employed repairing the tail race at the mills along the Lachine Canal had for a few days previously been strenuously urged by one or two discontented hands to go out on strike. Twenty of a gang which numbered thirty demanded an increase from \$1.25 to \$1.40 per day. Instead of listening to these demands the contractors discharged them. In about an hour the strikers, finding the remainder of the gang at work, attacked them, and the result was that the hands who persisted in working defeated their opponents. Many of the combatants were injured. It is feared that one of the non-strikers will die. Another lost an eye. No arrests made.

Telegrams from Newfoundland report that the Greenland seal fisheries are a failure. The losses to fishermen are heavy.

FIRES.—The number of disasters by fire that occurred last week is quite unusual in our Canadian record. We note those of the most extensive or serious character: The Loretto Convent at Lindsay, with the exception of the south wing, was completely destroyed by fire on the 24th. The water supply was very poor. The building was insured for \$25,000, \$14,000 in the Phoenix, \$8,000 in the Royal and \$3,000 in the Western. The young lady boarders were well-provided for by the neighbors. The convent was a large brick building, erected only a few years ago, the late Father Stafford having been its founder.—On the same day at Chippewa the Church of England parsonage was burned. Loss, \$2,500. Insured in the *Ætna* for \$1,600. Rev. Mr. Fessenden's furniture was partly saved in a damaged condition.—A fire broke out in a large pile of the G. T. R. Company's cordwood about two miles west of Bothwell, containing between 2,000 and 3,000 cords. The citizens of Bothwell, with the fire brigade, turned out and succeeded in saving over one-half of a pile, about 1,000 being burned.—About 11.30 a.m. on Sunday fire was discovered in the extensive tannery owned by A. Davis & Son King, Ont. When discovered the fire had made such headway that nothing could be saved but the books and a small quantity of finished leather in the office. The loss will be very heavy.—About nine o'clock Monday a fire broke out in a building on the campus at Victoria College, Cobourg. The fire had gained considerable headway before the alarm was sounded, and the building was totally consumed. A densely crowded meeting was in progress at the Town hall under the auspices of the "Saved Army." The cries of fire created a panic. In the rush for the exit people were bruised and several faints occurred. The building destroyed was devoted by the college authorities for half a century to the use of the science departments prior to the erection of Faraday hall.—A fire broke out the same day at Thedford in the Western hotel. The wind being very high and the buildings all frame, the whole block was destroyed in less than two hours.—At Melbourne O., April 24, the store and dwelling belonging to the estate of the late Mr. Hethrington were destroyed by fire. Total loss about \$5,000.

UNITED STATES.

A United States steamer has arrived at Portsmouth, Va., with several cases of yellow fever on board. All the patients are convalescing.

Forest fires are raging on the Blue Mountains and in the woods at the Leigh Gap, Pa., Rockport, and back of South Bethlehem.