

we try a better one for the future, my child."

"That was all his father said, but Gilbert understood him."

Now, Gilbert, my man, can you step out?" said Mr. Weber presently, in quite a different tone of voice, and Gilbert did step out with a will; it was impossible to feel tired when his father talked of all the things he was most interested in.

"There it is!" said Mr. Weber, as they turned a corner.

And Gilbert gave a jump; it was the castle!

"And—why, there are the others!" he cried in a puzzled tone, as there was a wild whoop, and the children came rushing down in a little crowd to meet them.

Tom and Edward looked just a little sheepish.

"It's a make-up," they whispered.

"Well, Gilbert," said his father, as he bade him good-night that evening, "the birthday has not been such a failure after all, has it?"

"It has been just splendid, Papa!" And it was true; Gilbert's temper had come triumphantly through the afternoon, even through one or two trials, for even with the best intentions, Tom and Edward could not leave off teasing all at once. "I mean to try always now," he said.

Mr. Weber looked down at Gilbert's bright face, and his own grew grave.

"My little boy," he said, "one does not conquer a bad temper in one afternoon—or in many afternoons," he added, with a sigh.

Then Gilbert understood how it was that his father knew all about it.

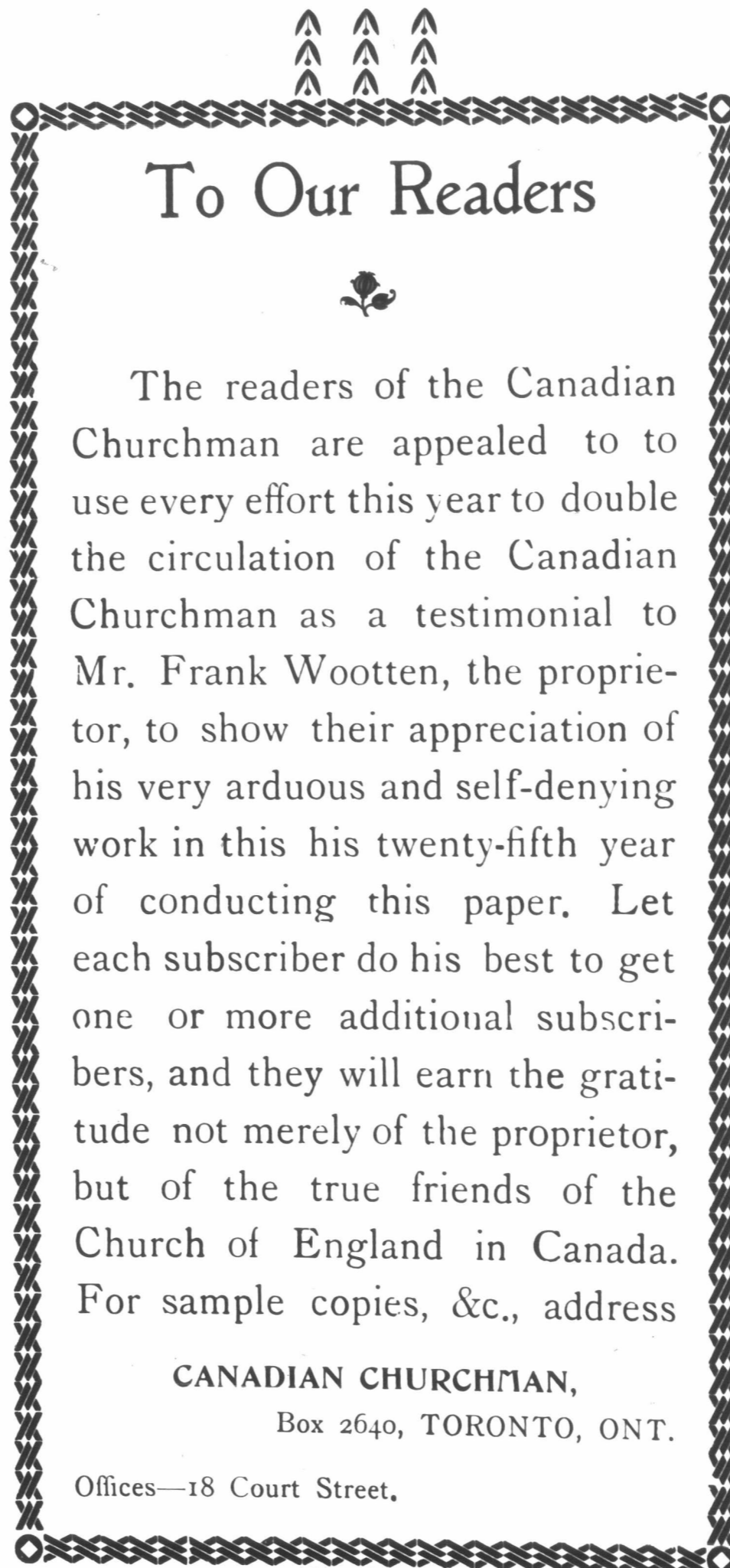
#### LOVE'S GIFTS.

If all the gifts which have been bestowed this Christmas season were proofs of love, what a happy world we should expect this to be in the year which is at hand! But, unfortunately, giving is often prompted by motives very different from loving. We give because it is expected of us, because we want to make a return for favours we have received, because it is the proper thing to do at Christmas time, at least as often as because our hearts so overflow with tenderness that they must find relief in some outward manifestation.

In our giving to our heavenly Father, too often other motives than love creep in. We give our testimony because that is expected of us as Christians. We give Him praise because that is the proper thing to do, and our voices are more concerned than our hearts in what is said. Sometimes a sense of gratitude prompts

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the gift; and, reasonable as the feeling is, how far it falls below that glowing love which delights to lavish itself, and gives because giving is its life!

You value a gift less for its value in dollars and cents than for the motive that actuated the giver.

If some little child worked a pen-wiper for you, and brought it to you with her Christmas wishes, her love shining out from her happy face, how you prize every clumsy stitch made by those dear, awkward little fingers! You will put it away among your treasures,

perhaps, as too precious to use and will take it out sometimes to smile over it, though the tears will not be far away. How very differently you feel about that expensive gift which comes from an acquaintance who, you are sure, is merely trying to discharge an obligation, or who wishes to impress you with a sense of his generosity.

Dear young people, be sure that your Father in heaven, too, prizes your gifts because of that which prompts them. A stumbling testimony, given for love's sake, is more precious to Him than the most eloquent sermon ever preached, which had a different motive behind it. To give a cup of cold water in Christ's name is worth more than to build a church for the sake of receiving honours from men. We talk a great deal about doing this and that for God, but we need to remember that the costliest gifts are without value in His sight, unless love is given first.

#### HOW WOULD YOU LIKE IT YOURSELF?

There was a great commotion in the backyard. Mother hurried to the window, to see Johnny chasing the cat with stones.

"Why, Johnny, what are you doing? What is the matter with kitty?" she asked.

"She's so dirty, mother. Somebody shut her up in the coal hole," he said.

"And is that all?"  
"Why, yes," said Johnny. "She's dirty and black and horrid. We don't want her here!"

Mother was about to speak, but she checked herself and went back into the house. Presently Johnny came in, crying, and ran to her for help. He had fallen into a puddle, and was dripping with mud.

"Oh, mother, mother!" he cried, sure of help from her.

She rose and started, towards him, then turned and sat down again.

"Jane," she said, quietly, to the nurse, who was sewing near-by, "do you know where there are any good-sized gravel stones?"

Nurse looked up, astonished, and Johnny stopped his loud noise to stare.

"Stones, m'am?" asked Jane.  
"Yes, to throw at Johnny. He's been in a puddle, and is dirty and black and horrid. We don't want him here."

Johnny felt as if this was more

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than he could bear, but gleam in his mother's heart from being quit

"Please, mother, I'll again!" he cried, in his "Poor kitty! I see how badly I treated her."

Johnny was then comforted, but he did not forget the little lesson to those in misfortune

—There is a story of a girl, who had been to school that every-ki every gentle action, a golden chain, which time to grow in I would reach from ea

The little girl was to selfishness, but one day, and felt made many "links, very happy of course.

But on awoken morning, she was stupid to be ambitious, said, "I don't feel so I guess I'll let links to-day."

It is a child-like shows the tendence ture. We hear ev and sufferings an are destitute, and necessity of help go our way leavin else to do. We dering why "some do the work that necessary, while and conclude not to-day.

If we are going children to be thoughtful of ot tribute blessings life, it is far better example of "lin to let them rely invisible chain.

#### COUNTRY

GI

To those wh nness to live in ber is perhaps month in all t boys it is espe the ripe nuts the trees, and gathered, to be barrels, or gat red and yellow trees. The g kins lie smiling promise of de by, while the made into gor Let every cou ful that he d city; that he e the soft gras: stead of the he can open morning and pure air that

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