

Just Between Ourselves

A Corner for Mother and the Girls.

The G. K. E. has given us this corner to talk about all the things that are of special interest to us, and I hope that we shall have many a pleasant chat—if not of “cablages and kings,” at least of “a number of things” that should make us all “as happy as kings,” or, rather, as queens. Now, do let me know just what YOU would like to talk about: address your letters to me, care of the B. C. M., but let them be short, PLEASE.

Christmas shopping is quite the most thrilling event this month, of course, and a trip through the stores gives one a hundred and one ideas that may be carried out, even though one suffers from “insufficient capitalization,” chronic or acute.

Aprons, large and roomy, made of unbleached cotton, and trimmed with applique in bright or pastel colors, make delightful and useful presents. One I saw had a bright red poppy growing all up one side, and the topmost poppy was the pocket. Another had morning-glories in pale shades all around the bottom, and on the pocket, while for the little maiden what could be more appropriate than a sunbonnet baby watering her garden?

Have you noticed that we are getting positively Mid-Victorian again? Well, we are. Glove and handkerchief boxes, elaborately trimmed with gold and silver lace, with intricate bows of ribbon, or puffs of pink silk, are going to be favorite presents this year.

It's often hard to know just what to give to an invalid. A book is splendid, but it must be just the right one. “Open Trails,” by Janey Canuck, and the Grayson books, “Adventures in Contentment,” “Adventures in Friendship,” and “The Friendly Road,” are restful books that breathe the very spirit of out-doors.

By the way, let's all ask for “Made in Canada” or “Made in the Empire” goods this Christmas season, and so help to create a demand for home-grown and home-made things.

Is there an intermediate-grade school boy or girl in your home? If there is, be sure to let them take this and the last number of the B. C. M. to show teacher the long list of “Made in B. C. goods.” “How I Set Up Housekeeping with Made in B. C. Products” would make a good subject for an essay, wouldn't it?

Talking of school, have you a P.T. A.? They're doing a great work in many schools of the province. All sorts of questions of interest to teachers and parents are discussed at the meetings. Newspaper reports lately show that the vexed question of home-work is being aired in many a district. If one who is neither a teacher nor a parent may be allowed to make a suggestion, I would say that the question of home-work is one that Parent-Teachers' Associations would do well to leave severely alone. The home-work any child does should be discussed, if need for discussion arises, by the parent and teacher of the particular child; if they cannot agree, the matter should be taken to the principal, then to the trustees, but NEVER to the P.T. A., where it is sure to be a rock of offense and a stone of stumbling.

The students of the U. B. C. have waged a mighty warfare with advertising as their weapon, and seem to have awakened the people and the Government at last to the absolute necessity of new buildings. Advertising in this province will be a fine art by the time the students who engineered this campaign are let loose upon the public. Honor to whom honor is due. 'Twas cleverly done indeed, and in an excellent cause, and so say all of us.

WINNOGENE.

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CHILDREN COMPETE FOR FORESTRY ESSAY PRIZE.

Scores of school children in every school district of the Dominion are competing these days in the national school essay competition on “Forestry and Tree Planting,” inaugurated recently by the Canadian Forestry Association.

Questions as to the forest resources of Canada, the damage done by forest fires, what trees to choose for planting, and how to plant them, are being asked by a multitude of young people, and the resultant information is being applied to the essay competition. Three substantial cash prizes are being given in each province, and the effect of the national effort to stimulate juvenile interest in the forest resources of the country and the multiple benefits of tree planting, has secured the hearty endorsement of all the departments of education, which are giving every co-operation. (S.)

LITTLE QUESTIONERS.

If you have little children in your care,
And they come to you with inquiring eyes
And puzzling questions and an eager air,
Put all the best you have in your replies.

You cannot always make them understand—
Perhaps you do not understand yourself;
But give your best. Give with a willing hand.
Share what you have. It is not miser's pelf.

Sincerity and patience, linked with love,
Should meet the little seekers after truth.
There are few duties this great task above,
To treat with reverence the heart of youth.

Give out the best, however poor it seems,
God can enrich it far beyond all dreams.

—Annie Margaret Pike.

Have you read
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