

## Only!

Only a drink of cider,  
Only a glass of beer,  
And some one's boy has started  
On in a down career.  
Is there no danger signal?  
Is there no hand to save  
Somebody's boy from going  
Down to a drunkard's grave?

Only a New Year's party,  
Only a glass of wine  
Passed by a pretty maiden  
Where the young people dine;  
Yet one young man was tempted  
And broke his pledge that day,  
And the saloon enticed him  
Still farther on to stray.

Only a ragged drunkard  
Tottering on the street,  
A wretched home, where children  
At sight of him retreat.  
A weary wife, heart-broken,  
Who vainly tries to save—  
Only a drunkard's death-bed,  
Only a drunkard's grave!

Only? Ah,—stop and ponder!  
I have not told the whole;  
What of the wasted lifetime?  
What of the ruined soul?  
Ye who are just beginning  
To tread this road, beware!  
'Tis said of the Heavenly City,  
'No drunkard shall enter there.'

—'Child's Paper.'

## The Duxhurst Colony.

The Industrial Farm Colony at Duxhurst was founded by Lady Henry Somerset in 1895, and consists of a village with neat cottages, a hospital, a church, lawns, gardens, and a large tract of land for cultivation.

The inmates live very much in the fresh air, are occupied in gardening, lawn-mowing, fruit-picking, in the tomato house, at the forcing frames, at the looms, or in the laundry; and they are expected to remain for one year—the shortest period in which a permanent cure may be hoped for.

It is gratifying to read that of all the wandering ones whose feet were guided to Duxhurst the half have been restored to womanhood, usefulness, happiness. And this percentage is obtained even when we reckon the insane, the dying, those unfit for treatment, and those who did not stay the full twelve months.

The chaplain says that he is possessed of irrefragable evidence that the Farm Colony has proved, under God, a most potent and successful means of reclaiming many a poor soul lost in the appalling wilderness of intemperance. A former inmate, now doing well, writes, 'May the dear Lord give you the extreme happiness of knowing that many women who have spent twelve months under your sweet, ennobling influence, stand as pillars in the cause of Temperance, to fall no more for ever. There are failures, but let even one, poor me, be an encouragement, who was plucked as a brand from the burning.'

It is pathetic to learn how women help each other, speak of the Home, and advise their friends to place themselves under its roof. One girl who had passed satisfactorily through the course, and had entered the service of a lady secretly addicted to drinking, conveyed her mistress to Duxhurst at her own expense, and confidently gave her into the Sister's charge. In the Birds' Nest young children belonging to the inmates of the Home are accommodated, and provision is made for receiving children from the slums and giving them a holiday in the country. A child, sitting at the doorstep enjoying her supper, remarked, 'Do you see that sky, sister? I often looks at it like this when I'm at 'ome, just when its getting dark, and I allus cries; it makes me fink of being 'ere an' mikes me want ter be good.' The same child wrote from London: 'Every night when I goes to bed I thinks of having a lovely bath.'

A hardened little wretch had been the leader of his gang in London, had helped to murder a policeman, and had watched outside Newgate to see the black flag 'go up for his cousin,' jeered at prayers, and swore when his frock-coat was taken from him. When he was tucked into bed and kissed good-night, he smuggled down among the clothes and muttered to himself—'Lor', aint this some-fink marvealious!' Before his holiday was over he was found sobbing as if his heart

would break because the fortnight was coming to an end.

The Colony is in want of funds. Hundreds of applicants are being refused for want of room. The sum of £350 will build a cottage, and £10 will furnish an apartment. There is a debt of £2,000, and Lady Henry Somerset, Eastnor Castle, Ledbury, wants to secure one thousand annual subscribers of one guinea each.

Advantage will be taken of the Inebriates Act, and some of the buildings will be licensed forthwith, so that the good work at Duxhurst will be materially helped by the Government.—'Irish League Journal.'

## Correspondence

Stoddartville, N.S.

Dear Editor,—We live on a farm and papa is working in the hay field. I have one little baby brother; his name is Louis. I hope to see this in the Correspondence column. I have taken the 'Messenger' for a year and a half, and I like it very much. Mamma has taken the 'Witness' for five years. I read the 'Children's Corner,' and like it very much.

AGENORA S. (aged 10).

Rockford, Ont.

Dear Editor,—I want to write and tell you what a nice paper I think the 'Messenger' is. We have taken it almost all the time since it was first printed, so I ought to know something about it. I think it is the best and cheapest paper printed. I like the 'Witness' very well too. I like to read 'Boys and Girls' pages. I liked Ezra S. Laird's letter very much. Once I got up a club for the 'Northern Messenger,' and got as a premium, a very nice book, called 'Reprinted Stories of the "Northern Messenger."' This is my second letter to the 'Messenger.' I hope all the young people will write.

W. L. K.

Estevan.

Dear Editor,—I am very fond of reading the 'Messenger.' I go to Sunday-school every Sunday and get the paper. We live in town near a lake; we have had six weeks' holidays. But school is going to start in two weeks. I have four sisters, Annie, and Lottie, and Violet, and Pearl Irene, and I have four brothers; and their names are Johnnie and James, and Albert and Archie. We have two little birds. I belong to the English church. I belong to the Auxiliary. I have three collies. I have a nephew here working at the mines. My father runs the largest mine in Coal Fields so far. Our clergyman's name is Mr. Kerry; my sister Pearl Irene, is going to get confirmed soon. We have a h.r.e named Button. We have some plants; flowers are plentiful here.

LILLIE (aged 10).

Estevan.

Dear Editor,—I live in town. I belong to the English church. I go to Sunday-school, and get the 'Messenger,' and I am very fond of reading the 'Messenger.' School is going to start again, and I am very glad. I belong to the English Church Auxiliary, and a playmate of mine, Ethel Perry, is secretary of the Auxiliary, and I am president of the Auxiliary. There are five or six of the girls and boys of the English church who are going to be confirmed, and myself also. I have four sisters and four brothers. I have a nephew twenty-one years old, and he calls me old aunt Pearl. I had a trip to San Francisco, last winter, to see my sister Violet, who had just come out from Dawson City; but she has gone in again to her gold mines. But she will soon be coming out again, and intends to make her home in San Francisco. I can ride horseback and also the bike. I have a sister, Lottie, living in Sand Coulee, and also a brother Johnnie in Klondike. I am piecing a quilt. I caught a black bird the other day. I am very fond of the girls and boys in Estevan that I play with; I am glad school is going to start so we will be together again. Lila Yardley, and I sit together in school. I can run the sewing machine well. Ethel Perry, and I have to pack an Auxiliary box for the missionary children. PEARL IRENE (aged 12.)

London, Ont.

Dear Editor,—My mamma takes the 'Messenger.' I am greatly interested in your paper. I am spending my holidays at my Auntie's now. She takes the 'Messenger,'

and 'Witness' both. I have two sisters, and one brother. I go to Sunday-school every Sunday. I am in the high second reader. I like going to school very much, my teacher's name is Miss Phoenix. I like her very much. My little sister goes to the kindergarten, and likes it very much, her teacher's name is Miss Wilcox.

MATTIE R. (aged 10).

Burlington, Ont.

Dear Editor,—Seeing so many of your numerous little friends writing such interesting letters, I thought I would try and write one too. I most heartily join with 'Grace H.' congratulating our good Editor and friend. I believe he must love children. I am in the fourth reader at school. I like composition and literature best. I am a great lover of nature and books; especially the latter. I have read a great many books. Among others, some of my favorites are: Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tales, 'Arabian Nights,' 'Ben-Hur,' 'Milton's' poems, especially 'Paradise Lost,' and 'Paradise Regained,' 'Bunyan's' 'Pilgrim's Progress' and Bunyan's 'Holy War,' 'Last days of Pompeii,' 'Uncle Tom's Cabin,' 'Robinson Crusoe,' 'Mona's choice,' 'The Three Castaways,' 'Barrie's Burned Away,' 'Near to Nature's Heart,' 'The Coral Reef,' 'No Lie Thrives.' The last is a book we have had for thirty-two years. I have also read all of the 'Elsie,' 'Bessie' and 'Mildred' books, and some of the 'Pansy' books, also some of 'Spurgeon's' sermons. 'Wordsworth' is my favorite poet. I love all of his poems, especially the one,—'We are seven.' We take several papers viz. Montreal 'Witness,' 'Weekly Magnet,' 'Pleasant Hours,' 'The Sunbeam,' and best of all the 'Northern Messenger.' Well, dear Editor pardon me, but I have written quite a long letter, so I must close.

NETTIE, (aged 13.)

Sonya, Ont.

Dear Editor,—I live on a farm. I go to school, but it is holidays now. I am in the third book. I have one sister, and five brothers. We have a pet cat, we call her Topsey; we have a dog also, we call him Sailor. I can play on the organ. We had a crow but he died.

I will close and leave room for some one else.

JANET Mc M. (aged 9).

Baraquet.

Dear Editor,—This is the second letter I have written to the 'Messenger.' I like the 'Messenger.' My grandma sent me the 'Messenger' for New Year. I would like to see this letter in print. I have one sister, her name is Maud and one little brother, Sib; he is sick to-day, poor little fellow. We have some rabbits, a dog, and three canaries.

JAMES F. (aged 8).

Lakefield.

Dear Editor,—I have not seen any letters from Lakefield, and thought I would write you one. We have three horses, two white cats, and one grey cat, one dog named Sport. I have harness for him, and he drives me around. I have lots of fun with him. I attend the Lakefield school this summer, but we have our vacation now, there are four teachers in the school, one is my auntie Miss Duff.

J. WELLIE (aged 8).

Clayton, Ont.

Dear Editor,—As I have never seen any letters from here, I thought I would write one. I am in the Fourth Reader at school. My teacher's name is Miss Cavers, and I like her very much. I go to Sunday-school. I have three pets, two dogs, Prince and Skip, and a little kitten. Prince is a large, white and black dog. Skip is a brown and white spaniel. Our horse's name is Duchess. She is very quiet, and I am learning to drive her. I am very fond of reading. We take a great many papers, but I like the 'Messenger' the best.

MAMIE L. (aged 10).

BENMILLER, ONT.

Dear Editor,—I did not see any letters from Benmiller, so I thought I would write one. It is very nice weather here now, but it is very cold in the winter. I have only one pet, and that is a cat; his name is Tom; we have had him for nearly four years, we think a lot of him. We live on another man's farm; my father is a laboring man, we have a nice Sunday-school; Mr. Henry Fisher is superintendent.

W. M.