

terested in, and would like to give a trifle to. But we make it a rule never to let our box get quite empty.

'That's all very well; but how can you afford to put by a penny in every shillin'?' I can't.

'Maybe we do without somethin' that you always have,' suggested Jim. 'Now, for one thing, we never see beer or tobacco in my house.'

'You don't? Well, that's too bad! We spend sixpence a day on beer, and we don't get much for our money neither. A workin' man can't do without his glass of ale and his pipe.'

'So you say; but now look at me! I'm well enough,' and Jim straightened his strong lithe figure, and looked full in Hal's face with his clear eyes. 'When I married,' said he, 'I gave up beer to please my wife, and I've never repented it. The tobacco was a harder thing to do without, for I'd been too much of a smoker. But when my boy was born, I says to myself, says I, "Now this will be another expense, and I ain't a-goin' to cut our food down, for that ain't healthy; nor I won't move into cheap, nasty quarters, for one and the same reason. But there's one thing I can do without, and that's my pipe." So I threw up the whole thing, and though it was awful hard at first, I got used to doin' without. Then, too, my missis is a good manager; we waste nothin', we owe nothin', and we've somethin' put by for a rainy day.'

'Well, that do sound wise!' remarked Hal; 'I've a good mind to try that plan—eh, Bob?'

For Hal's eldest son, Bob, who was working for a carpenter, had joined his father as they walked homeward, and had heard most of the conversation.

The following week, as Jim was going to the post-office as usual, whom should he meet just outside, but Bob Gray.

'Hallo, my boy!' said he, kindly, laying his hand on the lad's shoulder, 'you here?' 'Yes,' answered Bob, shyly. 'You see, Jim, I overheard what you said to dad t'other day, and I can see there's reason in it; so I'm a-goin' to make a beginnin'. I've given up beer, and what was spent on my share at dinner and supper I'll put in the bank. It's twopence a day, and worth savin'.'

'Ay, Bob, and not only that,' said Jim, 'but you're doin' what will be a treasure to you all your life long. You're learnin' to be self-denyin', and careful, and prudent; you're learnin' to choose what's right and wise, rather than the desire of the moment.'

### The First Drink.

Two boys stopped in front of a saloon, and an old man standing near listened to what they said.

'Let's go in and take a drink,' said one of them.

'I—I don't think we'd better,' said his companion, 'my father's terribly opposed to saloons. I don't know what he'd say if he knew I'd been in one, and drank liquor there.'

'Just for the fun of the thing, you know,' urged his friend, 'of course, we'd stop with that one drink. There couldn't be any harm in that.'

'My boys,' said the old man, coming up to them, 'you don't know what you're talking about. If you go in there and take one drink, you're not sure of stopping there. The chances are that you won't, for I tell you—and I know what I'm talking about by a bitter experience—there's a fascination about liquor that it takes a strong will to resist after the first taste of it, sometimes. Take the first drink, and the way of the drunkard is open before you. Only those who let liquor entirely alone are safe. I know, for I've been a drunkard a good many years. I expect to be one till I die. I began by taking a drink just as you propose to—"for fun"—but I didn't stop there, you see. Take the advice of a poor old wreck—and that is, never take the first drink.'

'You're right,' said the boy who had proposed to visit the saloon. 'I thank you for your good advice, sir. I say, Tom, let's promise each other never to take the first drink.'

'All right,' said Tom, and the boys clasped hands on their pledge.

'That's a good temperance society to belong to,' said the old man. 'I wish I'd joined one like it when I was a boy.'—Eben E. Rexford.

## Correspondence

Toronto.

Dear Editor,—I take the 'Messenger,' I get it at Sunday-school. I like it very much. I live in Toronto. It is a very pretty place. I have a little pet cat and, O, it's very sick.

ETHEL D. (Aged 9.)

St. Croix, N.S.

Dear Editor,—I live in a pretty village called St. Croix, on the St. Croix river. My brother and I take music lessons; we do not like practice very well. I am ten years old. I have five brothers and two sisters. Wishing the 'Messenger' every success.

RALPH S.

Roebuck, Ont.

Dear Editor,—I have two sisters and one brother. My great-grandmother is living yet. She is ninety years of age. Mamma is a granddaughter to her. Both of my grandmothers are dead. My Aunt Jane, Uncle Walter, and their daughter, Helen, live in Toronto Junction.

MABEL W.

Stillwater,

Dear Editor,—I am a little girl nine years old, I walk a mile and three quarters to school. I go to Sunday-school. My teacher gave me 'In His Steps,' for repeating the Golden Texts for the quarter. I have three brothers. I take the 'Messenger,' and like it very much.

VERA.

New Stock.

Dear Editor,—The 'Messenger' is a good paper. I have been a reader of it for nearly three years. My brother Alex takes it. There are nine children in the family. All of us were born in the United States except my three younger brothers. We live sixteen miles from town. I think it is a terrible road to drive. There are not very many snowbirds around here now. Three of us go to school in summer time. We have no school here in winter. There were two Christmas trees here in the colony, and we had a lovely time. I like to read the children's letters very well.

MINNIE S.

Milford, N.S.

Dear Editor,—I like to read the Correspondence. I live in a nice little village on the Shubenacadie. My sister subscribed for the 'Messenger' for my birthday. I was down at Halifax when the Second Contingent came home from South Africa. My birthday is on July 21.

B. U.

Bear Brook.

Dear Editor,—I have no brothers or sisters. My dear mother died when I was little. My father lives on a farm with my aunt and grandmother. One of my cousins sends us the 'Messenger' and we all like the reading of it very much.

NELSON O. D.

New Cornwall.

Dear Editor,—I have taken the 'Messenger' for two years, and like it very much. I have seven sisters and seven brothers. Three of my sisters are in Boston, and three married, and a dear little brother is in heaven. My oldest brother is at Frederickton, going to the military school, he was a year in South Africa. I have two grandfathers and two grandmothers living.

M. H.

Ruskview.

Dear Editor,—My papa keeps the post-office. My sister has taken the 'Messenger' for ten or twelve years. We live in the country very near the school-house. I have been going to school this two years. I like my teacher. My brother Stanley has a dog named Jack. I have four brothers and two sisters.

C. G. F., (Aged 8.)

Dorland, Ont.

Dear Editor,—I am the only girl in a family of five. I have two brothers in Dakota and two at home. My brothers have taken the 'Messenger' ever since I can remember, but they are all getting to be men, and hereafter it is to be my very own paper. I have a little girl friend living in Dryden, Rainy River District, who said she would write a letter if I would. I will try to send you some more subscribers, and perhaps you will send me 'Billy Bray,' I think I would like to read it. I am twelve years old.

BELLA D.

Stratford.

Dear Editor,—The Knox Church Sunday-school started to take the 'Messenger' on Jan. 1. We think the 'Messenger' a very good Sunday-school paper. I am ten years old. I have four brothers, two older and two younger than myself. I have two grandmothers and one grandfather, and they get the S.S. papers after we are through with them, and then my cousins in the country get them to read.

ETHEL G. D.

South Victoria.

Dear Editor,—I am a little girl eleven years old. I go to school. My papa is a farmer. Mamma took the 'Messenger' when she was a little girl, and now I take it, and like it very much. I always look forward to its coming.

JENNIE R.

South Victoria.

Dear Editor,—I am a little girl eleven years old. I have two pet cats named Flossy and Pansy. I enjoy reading the 'Messenger' very much. I am very fond of reading and have read a good many books.

ISABEL C. M.

Dunbarton, Ont.

Dear Editor,—I go to Sunday-school every Sunday, and get the 'Messenger.' I like to read the letters they are so nice. I am nine years old. My birthday is on Christmas Day. I have a little baby sister, her name is Hilda Victoria, her birthday is on Nov. 20. Wishing the 'Messenger' every success.

FLORENCE AMELIA L.

Shinimicas, N.S.

Dear Editor,—I like to go to school. My birthday is on October 15. My father lives on a farm. I am ten years old.

VANCE D. A.

Salisbury, N.B.

Dear Editor,—I am nine years old to-day, and I got a pair of gloves from mamma, and a bag of candy from all of the folks at home. I got two twenty-five cent pieces from mamma, and five cents from Lucy, that makes fifty-five cents altogether. Helen and I came up to grandma's. We like the 'Northern Messenger' very, very much, and I thank you all that I can for the nice stories.

RICHARD THOMPSON T.

Economy, N.S.

Dear Editor,—I got a club of fourteen last year. I intend to get all the new ones I can every year. Our minister's name is Mr. McKillican, from Montreal, he has a Bible-class at our house every Monday evening. We think a great deal of him.

MAY S.

Victoria, P.E.I.

Dear Editor,—I live in a village called Victoria. I am seven years old. I go to school every day, and am in the second book. We keep the telephone office, and have a grocery store. We have taken the 'Messenger' for one year, and would not do without it now. I always read the Correspondence first.

BERTRAM P.

Springdale.

Dear Editor,—I take the 'Northern Messenger,' and like it very much, and I would not like to be without such a nice paper. I go to school every day. I have one pet cat. I take music lessons every Wednesday and Saturday. My birthday is March 7.

IRENE P.

South Victoria.

Dear Editor,—I have two sisters and one brother. There is lots of snow here, and we have lots of fun coasting.

ANNIE R. (Aged 9.)

Springdale.

Dear Editor,—I get the 'Messenger' every week, and I would not like to be without it. I am going to school. I have six brothers and one sister. Our pastor is the Rev. Mr. Scott. I have two pets, a dog and a cat. I take music lessons on Tuesdays and Fridays. I wonder if any little reader has the same birthday as mine, June 21.

MAGGIE PEARL S. (Aged 15.)

Industry, Kan., U.S.

Dear Editor,—My brother takes the 'Messenger,' and we all like it. I like the Correspondence best. I went to a spelling school not long ago and spelled the school down.

AMY L. H., (Aged 10.)