

Correspondence

ROYAL LEAGUE OF KINDNESS.



- 1 pledge myself
 To speak kindly to others,
 To speak kindly of others,
 To think kind thoughts,
 To do kind deeds.

The list of members of this royal league grows apace. Five have sent in their names this week: Gordon Stewart, F., Ont.; Winnie McIntosh, S., Ont., and Pearl, Rubia and Myrtle Craig, W., Que. Have any of the members found it very hard to keep their pledge? How many wear the little purple

the lake. My papa went out one afternoon and got forty nice fish, weighing from three to five pounds. Do you not think that was fine? We just came here last spring. I think this is one of the prettiest places I have ever seen. It is a perfect flower garden, with wild roses and wild peas and other wild flowers.

MAY HADLEY.

Marking the Birthdays.

(Rev. J. R. Miller, D.D., in the 'American Messenger'.)

It is not enough to have a birthday made happy by the congratulations of friends, by tokens of affection, by letters filled with good wishes. It should be marked also among the days by some uplift, some new beginning, some victory over temptation or fault, some fresh gift from heaven. No to-morrow should be just like to-day, no better, no more beautiful, no fuller of helpfulness. But every birthday should mark a special advance. We should never be content to live any year just as we lived the one that is

Yet the revealing of this fact that the prizes of life cannot be got easily should never daunt any one. Indeed, a large part of the value and blessing in any achievement or attainment lies in what it costs. We grow most under burdens. We get strength in struggle. We learn our best lessons in suffering. The little money we are paid for our toil is not the best part of the reward—the best is what the toil does in us in new experience, in wisdom, in patience, in self-conquest.

But whatever the cost of life's gains, we should be ready to pay it in full. We need not trouble ourselves greatly either about earthly position, or about our largeness in men's eyes; it is infinitely more important that we make sure of growing in the things that belong to true manhood. A distinguished man said: 'If I had a son, I should tell him many times a day to make himself as big a man on the inside as possible.' That should ever be our aim, and on each new birthday this vision of worthy life should be set freshly before us.

This ideal concerns two things—our own growth in whatsoever things are lovely and true, and our work on the lives of others. One writes: 'To be at once strong and gentle, true and kind; to be braver to-day than yesterday; swifter to respond to earth's music, slower to notice its discords; to have eye and hand growing ever quicker to note, and more ready to aid the need around us; to have the voice take a cheerier tone day by day, and the eyes a quicker light, because in our souls we believe that

"God's in his heaven—
 All's right with the world."

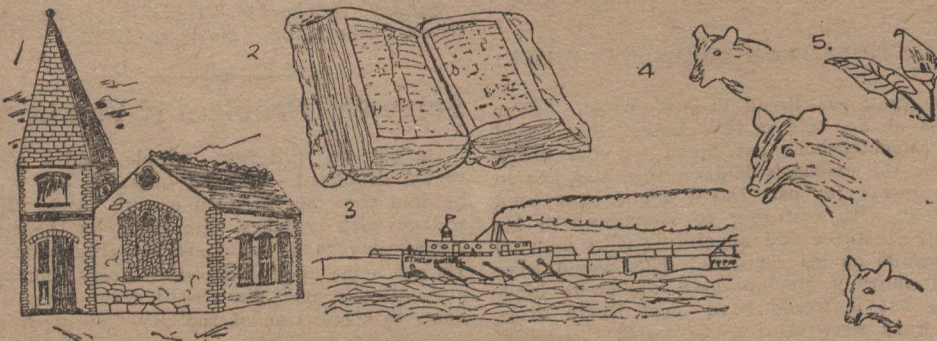
this is to be growing in grace. What higher ideal of life can we have than that of making a little brighter, sweeter, stronger, a little better or happier in some way, every life which touches our own? Whether we do it by sermon or song, by merry laugh or sympathetic tear, by substantial air or 'trifles light as air,' matters not at all so long as it is done for Christ's dear sake and the bringing nearer of his kingdom.

Do to-day's duty, fight to-day's temptations, and do not weaken or distract yourself by looking forward to things you cannot see, and could not understand if you saw them.—Kingsley.

To Our Bright Young Reader.

You like the 'Messenger,' do you not? And you surely know at least five young friends who do not now get the 'Messenger' in their home but who would like to get it through the mail in their own name. Get five of these friends to give you 10 cents each, send the .50 to us along with the five names and addresses very carefully written, and we will start sending the 'Northern Messenger' at once to each one and send it for three full months on trial. Besides this we will send you six beautiful colored pictures 9 x 16 inches long, 'Pansy Blossoms,' well worth framing. You give one to each of your club of five, keep the sixth yourself, and get besides a beautiful enamelled Maple Leaf Brooch for your trouble. Anyone who reads this, may get up a 'Pansy Blossom' club; and the same person may send us half a dozen such clubs one after the other. Be sure the names you send are from families that have not been getting the 'Messenger' at all. Anyone may pay you 10 cents and give you the name of some cousin or niece or grandchild anywhere in Canada (except Montreal or suburbs), or in the British Isles or Newfoundland, and we will send the 'Messenger' there at the same price. The 'Pansy Blossoms,' however, all go to you to give around.

Let your mother or father show you how to send the money properly. It is always better to send by postal note or money order, but you could send by registered letter, or in stamps if more convenient. Don't send loose coins in an envelope. Who will send in the first such club? And we will print your name on this page. Send names and money to John Dougall & Son, 'Witness' Block, Montreal, and mark on the corner of the envelope 'Pansy Blossom Club.'



OUR PICTURES.

1. 'The Village Chapel.' John R. (age 13), S., Ont.
 2. 'Bible.' A. L. P. (age 10), Peterborough.
 3. 'The "Ethel" of Montreal.' John Paton (age 11), Montreal.
 4. 'Bears.' Heber Fitzgerald (age 10), M., Sask.
 5. 'Lilly.' Ruth Murphy, M. F., Ont.

and white bow that is the badge of the League. Have any members seen a really kind act to tell us all about? Write and let us know how you are getting on. Since no one else has sent in an incident of a kind act anywhere else in Canada, Montreal will give another little one this week: Three boys were sitting one morning on the steps of a house on one of the poorer streets in the city when an old man was coming slowly towards them. He was very much bent and leant heavily on his cane. The boys did not know they were watched, but one proposed that they should get a bit of fun out of him by teasing. The second looked undecided, but the third was so emphatically against it that the first one thought it better to give in. As the old man passed he looked at them suspiciously, but he only got a bright smile from the third one, who lifted his cap as he passed. The old man said 'Thanks, sonny. Good morning,' and went on.

'I didn't mean to hurt him' said the boy who had proposed the 'fun.' 'I only meant to tease and see if he'd chase us.'

'Oh well,' said the one who certainly ought to be a member of our league, 'he's old you know. And you wouldn't like to be old and bent in the back and have us boys tease you, would you?'

Then the boys went on talking about their baseball, and the old man was going down the street with a smile on his face instead of a frown and sunshine in his heart, instead of an angry cloud. It wasn't much that was done; it was rather something left undone, but three hearts were left the brighter for it, the boy's own, the old man's, and the heart of the one who watched. Such an investment in sunshine was well worth while, wasn't it?

E., Alta.

Dear Editor,—A few more lines to the 'Messenger.' I saw your letter in the 'Messenger' about Quebec. I was not there, but would like to have been there, for I am sure it was nice and very interesting. We have a very nice place here and lots of fish in

gone. Contentment is a Christian grace, but contentment does not mean satisfaction. We are never to be restless—restlessness is a mark of weakness—but we can have perfect poise and the blessing of Christ's peace, and yet be eagerly pressing on all the while to new attainments and new achievements.

We should mark our birthdays by a clearing away of whatever is out of date and no longer of use in our life, and especially of whatever cumbers or hinders us, whatever impedes our progress. As we grow older there are many things which we should leave behind. When we become men we should 'put away childish things,' but some men never do. They always remain childish. Childlikeness is very beautiful—it is commended by the Master as the very ideal of Christian life and character; but childishness is unbeautiful and unlovely, and should be left behind as we pass on. Then, we are continually coming to the end of things which may have been important in their time, but we have outlived their necessity. A birthday is a good time to get clear of all these worn-out, superseded things. We should move out of the old house, leaving in the garrets and lumber rooms the things we need no more, and making a new home for our souls, with only fit and beautiful things in it.

A birthday should be a time also for taking fresh hold of life. The tendency is to live in routine, and routine is likely to be fatal to zest and enthusiasm. We easily lose sight of our ideals, and drift imperceptibly into commonplace living. We need to be waked up now and then to fresh consciousness of the meaning of life. One of the perils of comfortable living is the falling into easy ways. We forget that the easy path does not slope upward; that worthy things can be reached only by climbing; and that the true way is not only steep, but oftentimes craggy. The really noble and worthy things in life can be attained only at the cost of toil and struggle. Not heaven alone, but whatever belongs to the kingdom of heaven, must be won on the battle-fields of life.