

### Only a Soldier's Blanket.

When the gallant Sir Ralph Abercromby was mortally wounded in the battle of Aboukir, he was carried in a litter on board the Foudroyant. To ease his pain, a soldier's blanket was placed under his head, from which he experienced great relief. He asked what it was.

"It's only a soldier's blanket," was the answer.

"Whose blanket is it?" he asked, half lifting himself up.

"Only one of the men's."

"I wish to know the name of the man whose blanket this is," insisted the dying commander.

"It is Duncan Roy's, of the 42nd, Sir Ralph," replied the servant.

"Then see that Duncan Roy gets his blanket this very night," said the brave man, not forgetting, even in the last agonies, the welfare or comfort of another soldier, however humble his rank.

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### St. Matthew's Brandon.

The midwinter entertainment in connection with St. Matthew's, took place on the evening of the Epiphany, in the city hall, and was the most successful in the history of the school. Every event on the programme went off without a hitch, showing great care and attention to detail on the part of the committee in charge, and a great deal of ability on the part of the youthful performers.

The opening carol by the school choir, "As with gladness men of old," was well given, the whole audience standing; and then, eleven sweet little tots, in night wrappers, and carrying lamps, and hugging dolls to their tiny bosoms, trotted out on the stage, and went through their drill, one by one disappearing, till the last blew out her little lamp and bowed her cute adieu. The audience enjoyed this number to the full, and laughter and tears were mingled as the pretty dears went through their evolutions, and whispers of "the darlings" were heard on all sides.

Miss Hilda Hesson and Miss Louise Barton, then gave an ode, dedicated to Parker's Dye Works, so well that the Treasurer of the School was heard to murmur: "We ought to have made Parker's Dye Works put up \$10 for that ad."

Dr. McInnis then came on, and sitting cross-legged, told the children a fairy tale in his own inimitable style, amid rapturous applause.

Willie Aldridge gave a cornet solo, which was encored, but, the programme being a long one, he could not respond.

Miss Nellie Cleverly's band of stalwarts drilled, and sang "Solomon Levi." They made quite an impression, especially on the stage floor, which shook under the rhythmic clattering of their "number nines."

After a few minutes' cessation of business, the crowning event of the evening—"The Sleeping Beauty," was rendered. The scene opened with the King and Queen (Miss Hanbury and Miss Douglas) talking together in anxious

desire for an heir. A fairy granted their desire, the ubiquitous cradle and contents appeared on the scene, and the good fairy (Miss Louise Barton), attended by eight dainty little fair attendants, appeared and gave her blessings and good wishes to the baby princess (Miss Cleverly). The eight young fairies then danced a minuet and the lancers in perfect style, and without an error. Helen Leech and M. Aske, Nora Pilling and Kathleen Budd, Marion McDonald and Bertha Pilling, and lastly Ella Hanbury and Brownie Douglas, made four as sweet pairs of dancers as ever graced the floor of the City Hall. The old witch (Miss Mary Cottingham) then pronounced her curse on the little princess, who according at the age of sixteen pricks herself with a needle, and with her whole household goes off into a sleep of a hundred years, at the end of which the fair prince (Miss Hilda Hesson) appears and wakens and marries her. The play and whole effect were most charming, and reflected the greatest credit on Miss Lee and her assistants and the young performers.

The prizes were then distributed to the successful ones, and various presentations were made by admiring pupils to teachers.

In the second part of the programme Rev. Mr. Custance and Messrs. Press and Aldridge received a good hearing, as did Master Russel Leech and Little Miss Verna Leech in their recitations. Miss Magee rendered "Caller Herin," in costume, charmingly.

Miss Lena Lee's "Three Little Sailor Boys" (Lee, Hesson and Hanbury) then held the boards acceptably and well.

Finally, Dr. McInnis as Santa Claus dispensed the good things from the laden trees to every boy and girl belonging to the school or church, at the conclusion of which the immense audience dispersed to their homes, after one of the best children's entertainments ever given in Brandon.

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The Rev. Robert C. Johnstone, Editor of the WESTERN CHURCHMAN, is prepared to take lecture engagements after February. Subjects of lecture:

1. The Revolution and its Ballads.
2. The Romance and Minstrelsy of the Jacobites.
3. Sir Walter Scott and his Ballads.
4. Lady Nairne and Her Songs.
5. "A Nicht wi' Burns."
6. Scotch Wit and Humor in Song and Story.
7. Wit and Humor of the English Speaking People.

Special terms when proceeds are for church purposes. No spare dates in February.

Apply to EDITOR,

Box 310, Winnipeg.