

*CONTENT AS A KING.*

Once upon a time,—so runs the story, and a pleasant story it is—when Louis XII. of France was at the Royal Castle of Plessis les Tours, he went one evening into the kitchen, where he found a small boy engaged in turning a spit for the roasting of a loin of beef. The lad had a peculiarly bright-looking face, keen, bright eyes, and features really fine; and his appearance greatly prepossessed the king in his favour.

Laying a hand upon his head, he asked the little fellow who he was.

The boy, looking up and seeing a plain-looking man in a hunting garb, supposed he might be speaking with one of the grooms or perhaps chief riders of the royal stables.

He answered, very modestly, that his name was Simon. He said he came from La Roche, and that his parents were both dead.

“And are you content with this sort of work?” Louis asked.

“Why not?” answered the boy, with a twinkle in his eye and a suggestive nod. “I am as well off as the best of them. The king himself is no better.”

“Indeed How do you make that out?”

“Well, fair sir, the king lives, and so do I. He

can do no more than live. Further, I am content. Is the king that?”

Louis walked away in a fit of thought deep and searching.

*“THE PICKET-GUARD.”*

It is composed of eight boys. It meets quarterly in the pastor's study. A map of the village, the population of which is four thousand and two hundred, is divided into eight parts, one part being assigned to each boy. It is his business to know who lives in every house in his district, and what church each family attends. At the meeting he reports changes of residence and other facts which he may think the pastor would be glad to learn. The houses on the map are all numbered, and lists correspondingly numbered are made of the families.

This plan interests the boys in the work of the church. It saves the pastor much labour, and makes him well acquainted with his field. It brings the boys to the study, where, aside from the work of the evening, they have a social visit and slight refreshments. The opportunity is afforded to give instruction upon some religious topic, and to engage with them in prayer. The plan having been tested, it is confidently recommended to those in similar circumstances.

*NOTICE.*

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*All communications regarding the subject-matter of the magazine, to be addressed to Rev. J. Burton, B.D., Editor, Box 2648, Toronto.*

*All business correspondence to be directed to the “Business Manager,” Box 2648, Toronto, except those regarding advertisements, which are to be addressed to C. Blackett Robinson, 5 Jordan Street, Toronto.*

*Pastors, Secretaries of Churches, or any interested friend of the cause, are requested to send for insertion items of Church News. To ensure insertion in the number of the coming month, such items, correspondence, etc., must be on hand not later than 20th of the current month.*