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NOTES ON SCOUTCRAFT

By Rev. GEORGE W. TEBBS

Hamilton Boy Scout Rally Responsible for Real Enthusiasm.

Local clergymen are lining up enthusiastically behind the Boy Scout movement in this city, and will lend their support to the big membership drive and campaign which opened December 6th. Rev. R. T. Cockburn, of the Hamilton Ministerial Association, Rev. R. H. Ferguson, of the Hamilton Deanery, and Rev. W. A. McIlroy, of the Hamilton Presbytery, at a meeting with the Scout Campaign Committee, asked the members of their respective organizations to deliver a Boy Scout sermon on December 5th. But the clergy is only one of the prominent bodies which have placed their shoulders to the wheel. Various clubs, merchants and other representative citizens, realizing the importance of the work, have voluntarily offered their services.

What Is It?

Can any Scout discover the meaning of the following:—

"All * * * * * O"

No, it doesn't mean "Hallo," but "Nothing after all."

Windsor Boy Scouts Run Down Boys Who Sent in False Alarms.

Boy Scouts, assisting the police on November 5th, captured three boys, all under 14, who the police allege have turned in no fewer than 10 false fire alarms in the last few days. Mayor Winter will recommend to City Council that the Scouts be given a reward of \$25 offered for the arrest of those responsible.

What Scouting Means to Parents.

A safe outlet for boy energy and enthusiasm.

Out-of-school education for their boys.

Outdoor interests that make for their boys' health, strength and happiness.

The strengthening of boy character through the Scout law and practice. Under such influences the boy-mind is more easily turned to the higher things of life.

The keen interest that our Chief Scout takes in the beautiful things of nature was seen last year when Sir Robert Baden-Powell was visiting Canada. Passing Burlington, he saw some beautiful trilliums in flower in a bush, and arranged to have roots sent to his woods in England. We should like to know with what success.

The Orangeville Scouts, under the leadership of the Rector of St. Mark's, held a delightful camp recently in one of the most beautiful parts of the province, quite near home, at the Forks of Credit. Toronto Scouts should bear this place in mind when arranging their camp for another year. Capt. Rev. Hudson Stewart, M.C., is to be congratulated upon the splendid work he is doing for the Scouts of Orangeville.

A young man in Wyoming drove two miles alone before he discovered that his sweetheart had fallen out of the buggy. Needless to say he was NOT a Scout.

Our Book Shelf.

A few good books for Scouts as Christmas or birthday gifts are "Dick Arnold, of Raritan College," by Earl Reed Silvers; publishers, D. Appleton and Co., New York. "Don Strong, American," by William Heyliger; same publishers. "Dan Again," by Vera C. Barclay; publishers, G. P.

Putmans Sons. "The Ring-Necked Grizzly," by Warren H. Miller; published by D. Appleton and Co. "Boy Bird-house Architecture," by Leon H. Baxter; published by the Bruce Publishing Co., Milwaukee, Wis.

* * *

Boys and Girls

Dear Cousins,—

Somehow or other I missed you last week; whose fault it was—well, I'd better not say, but time slips by so quickly that busy people don't always realize that two weeks instead of one have gone. I wonder if you are as busy as we are in our house, and in our office too? Directly December appears round the corner, everybody seems to realize how close Christmas is, and they get busy accordingly. Those of you who live in the city know how marvellous the shops are, and what beautiful toys are to be seen. Even your old Cousin Mike was attracted one night last week when he was walking up the road—late—by a huge Teddy-bear, who sat at the top of a great pyramid of toys, slowly revolving so that you could see all the beautiful things.

I couldn't help wondering if he didn't get giddy about 3 o'clock in the morning, or if he didn't revolve all night and they gave him a little rest after midnight. I wonder which little cousin he'll go to this Christmas? He has lots of tiny brothers, too, who would just fit into a little stocking belonging to some poor down-town cousin. There'll be need of him, too, for there isn't going to be work for everybody this winter, I'm afraid, and that means that unless we think about others besides ourselves—well, some of the others are going to have to go without things. Imagine Christmas without presents! Wouldn't it be awful?

By the time you get your next letter from me, I shall be hundreds of miles away from the office. For I am going to pay a Christmas visit to some of my cousins out west—all among the snow in the prairies. I wonder if I'll meet Santa Claus' reindeer out there? Or does he come down from Hudson's Bay? I don't know for certain. But anyway, it'll be better to see snow on the prairies than mud in the city. This minute it is raining so hard that you might easily think it spring instead of winter. Jack Frost must be kept late out west, I guess.

Your affectionate
Cousin Mike.

* * *

A big display advertisement outside a church in the city of Chester, England, reads: "It is not enough for your WIFE to attend Church services. You ought to be something more than a BROTHER-IN-LAW to the Church."

* * *

A QUEER LOT.

"Parsons are a queer lot" is often the criticism of the laity, said a speaker at the lately-held Church Congress at Southend, but as the Archbishop of Canterbury once said: "Gentlemen, you must remember that we have only the laity to choose from."

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