

The Sexton.

WHEN the Sexton came to the tower stair,
Where the coil of bell-rope lay,
He cheerily called, "Old bell up there,
Ring out! it is Christmas day!"

He seized the rope in each wrinkled hand,
He pulled with a youthful might,
Till the glad sound pealed o'er the sleeping land,
And soared to the stars so bright.

"Ho, ho!" laughed the stars o'er earth and main,
"What know you of Christmas-tide?
We shone on that far-off Eastern plain
Where a star was the wise men's guide.

"We saw the child in his manger-bed,
And the gifts that the magi gave,
And we shall shine when your voice has fled,
We shall shine on the Sexton's grave!"

Said the Sexton: "Stars! to you 'twas given
To herald the Christmas birth;
Though the praise and the glory belong to heaven,
'Tis the joy belongs to earth."

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A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

Rev. W. H. WITHROW, D.D., Editor.

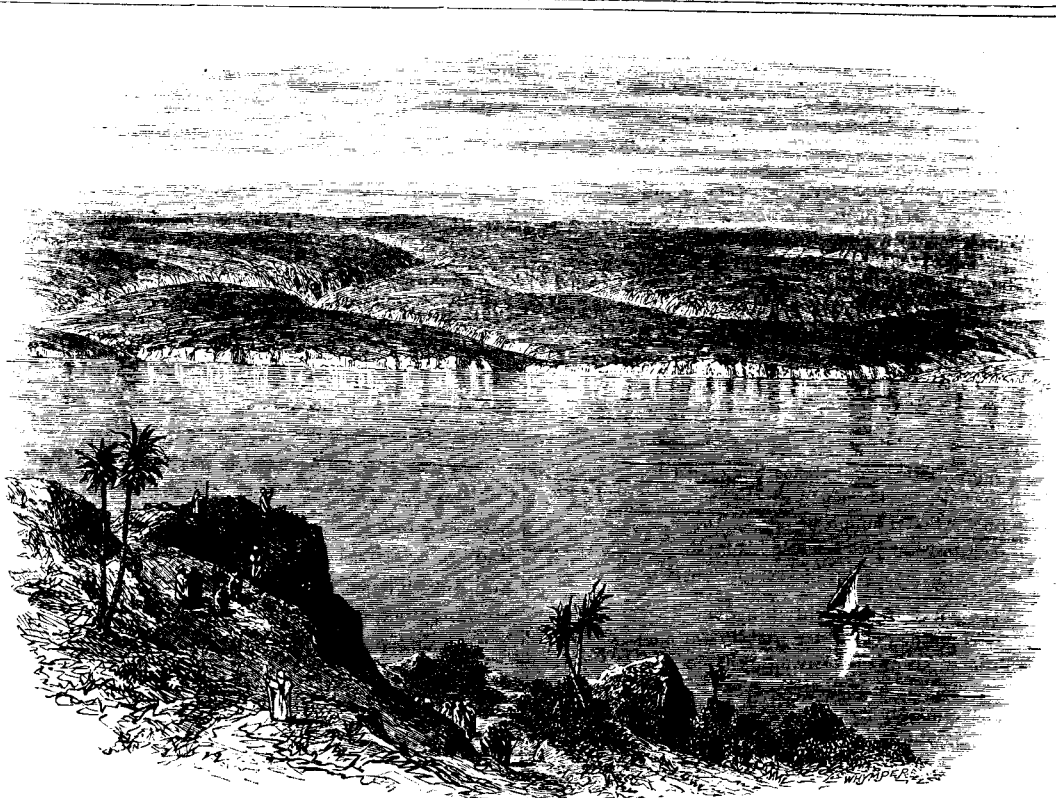
TORONTO, DECEMBER 7, 1889.

THE EPWORTH LEAGUE IN TORONTO.

A NUMEROUSLY attended meeting in the interest of this new movement was held in the Metropolitan Church, Toronto, on October 29. Almost every Methodist church and Sabbath-school in the city was represented. Addresses were given by the Revs. Dr. Withrow and Johnston on the aims and objects and methods of the League, and short addresses heartily endorsing it were made by Revs. A. Phillips, M.A., W. S. Blackstock, and by Messrs. Boustead, Awde, Score, Pearson, Paul, Jenkinson, Willmott, Sandham, Peake, Crabb, Massey, Watkins and others. Steps were taken to bring about the speedy organization of branches of the League in as many as possible of the schools and churches of the city. It is long since so much enthusiasm was manifested in any subject of the kind, and arrangements were made for public mass meetings for its promotion. The Rev. Dr. Potts and other ministers not able to be present heartily endorse the project.

A vigorous branch of the Epworth League, numbering 60 members, has been formed in Trinity Church (Rev. Dr. Johnston's), Toronto.

THOSE who live in the love of Christ should never be melancholy, for they have a thousand sources of joy of which others know nothing.



SEA OF GALILEE.

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THIS is the name given in Matt. iv. 18, of the lake in Galilee, called in Numbers xxxiv. 11, the "sea of Chinnereth;" in Joshua xii. 3, "the sea of Chinneroth;" and in John vi. 1, "the sea of Tiberias." It is an expansion of the Jordan, and the current of the river is visible in the middle of the lake. Its dimensions have not been precisely ascertained. Pliny makes it to be sixteen miles long and six broad; Olin conjectured the length to be twelve miles, and its breadth six. Both statements probably exceed the reality. With a sandy bottom, it has sweet and limpid waters, containing, especially in the northern parts, abundance of fish. Its environs form perhaps the most lovely part of Palestine. Their inhabitants enjoy the temperature of the tropics, and Burckhardt states that melons are ripe there a month earlier than at Damascus. Travellers agree in speaking warmly of the beauty of the scenery, which was of old described in glowing terms by Josephus and the Talmudists. Formerly, flourishing cities, such as Tiberias, Bethsaida, and Capernaum, enlivened its shores, which are now silent and desolate, but still beautiful. The calm which ordinarily prevailed on its bosom was rudely broken by a battle fought there, in the days of Vespasian, between the Romans and the Jews. Fishing is still carried on in the lake, but only from its shores. When, a few years since, visited by Olin, it had on its waters only two small boats. We cite from that intelligent traveller, "I remained seated upon one of those ancient tombs for half an hour or more, to enjoy the lovely and magnificent prospect which it afforded of the sea of Galilee and the region adjacent. It was four or five hundred feet below me, its surface so smooth as to seem covered with oil, and glittering in the beams of a bright and burning sun, though darkened here and there with the moving shadow of a cloud. The high bold shore is a good deal depressed on the north and north-east, where the Jordan enters, and it occasionally declines a little, or is broken through by a narrow valley in some other places; but with few exceptions it is everywhere a mountain steep, usually clothed with grass, shrubs and small trees. In a few places, where the slope is more gentle, it is covered with wheat and ploughed fields."

The ordinary peacefulness of the lake, which is

owing to its lying in a basin formed of hills that run up on all sides, except at the narrow entrance and outlet of the Jordan, is occasionally disturbed by sudden gusts and tempests caused by winds rushing down from its encompassing mountains, which, however, soon abate their fury, and leave the waters in their usual tranquillity. Comp. Luke viii. 23.

The cuts on this and the following page are specimens of nearly 100 of "Bible Lands," which will appear in the *Methodist Magazine* for 1890, accompanied by the following descriptive articles by the Rev. Geo. J. Bond, whose "Vagabond Vignettes" have been such an attraction during the past year. They will include, "On Horseback through Palestine—from Zion to Hermon;" "The Eye of the East—Damascus and Thereabouts;" "Over the Lebanon;" "In the Track of St. Paul—Smyrna and Ephesus, Athens and Corinth," etc.; "The Mount of the Law—Sinai and the Desert;" "Two Famous Philistine Cities—Ashdod and Gaza;" "Petra the Rock City;" "Calvary, the Traditional and the True," with graphic pictures of the Jordan Valley, Cana, Shechem, Nazareth, Samaria, Nain, Tabor, Tiberias, the Sea of Galilee, the Lebanon Range, Damascus, Petra, the Sinaitic Peninsula, etc.

Many schools have taken from two to ten copies of the Magazine to circulate instead of libraries, as being cheaper, fresher, and more attractive than books. Send for special rates for schools to Wm. Briggs, Publisher, Toronto.

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