

THE STRAYED LAMB.

A little lamb, one afternoon, Had from the fold departed; The tender Shepherd missed it soon, And sought it broken-hearted.

Not all the flock that shared his love Could from the search delay him, Nor clouds of midnight darkness move, Nor fear of suffering stay him.

But night and day he went his way, In sorrow till he found it, And when he saw it fainting lay, He clasped his arms around it.

And closely sheltered in his breast, From every ill to save it, He took it to his home of rest, And pitied and forgave it.

And thus the Saviour will receive The little ones who trust him; Their pains remove, their sins forgive, And draw them gently near him—

Blest while they live; and when they die, Whom soul and body sever, Conduct them to his home on high, To dwell with him forever.

-Selected.

THE DOOR-MAT CHRISTIAN.

BY REV. WILLIAM HASLAM, M. A. (Author of "From Death into Life.")

I went to a place to preach in rotation with others. The friend who invited me, in course of conversation, said "By the way, what are you going to preach about to-night?"

I said, "Have they ever heard about door-mat Christians?"

"No," he replied, "what may they be?"

I answered, "Let your curiosity rise to tip-toe in expectation, and I will tell you at the proper time."

"No," he said, "my curiosity is roused quite enough now; tell me at once."

"Suppose," I said, "a great man invited you to dinner, and suppose you are a very humble-minded individual; that is, one who thinks much of yourself and your humility. You have received the invitation, and wish to accept it; but you are really so unworthy! You imagine that the master of the house knows nothing about your unsuitness. You walk up and down outside the house, saying, 'I am invited to this great mansion, but how can such as I go in?' At last, you go up trembling to the door, and give a timid single knock, like a beggar, or rather, such as beggars used to give. When the door is opened, you ask if you may enter, though you have been invited to the feast. You are bidden to come in, and assured again and again of your welcome; but still you remain standing on the door-mat, wondering whether you have any good reason for being there.

"Something keeps telling you that you are not accepted. All this time the door is open behind you, filling the house with cold air. Your worldly friends outside look on and wonder what you are doing there on the door-mat. You have been bidden to come to the dining-hall and to the banquet, but you shrink back for fear and feel your unworthiness. You have some hope that you may get to the great banquet when you die! Think what a troublesome guest you would be, and how unwelcome too, if you are not to come to dinner till you are dead!"

"Oh," said my friend, "I begin to see what your drift is now. You mean to say that we bring the invited guests just inside the door of salvation and leave them there, instead of bringing them to the banquet hall."

"Yes, indeed," I said, "and I mean even more than that. If you will look at the story of the prodigal, you will see that there are five things provided for him, and that they are all ready. There is the kiss of reconciliation or pardon, the robe, the ring, the shoes, and the fatted calf. No wonder that young converts are not satisfied or satisfactory, when five such things are provided, and they only take one.

"Supposing a legacy were left you in five figures, 12,345—twelve thousand three hundred and forty-five pounds. You go to prove the will, and, because of your humility, you only take five pounds. Would that satisfy you?"

"I expect," said my friend, "I am one of your door-mat Christians. I do not think I am further than that. Like the

prodigal son, I was a long time making resolutions and wishing; but when I arose to go to my Father, he met me and forgave my sins. There I have stopped."

"St. Paul tells us," I said, "'that through this man, Christ Jesus, is preached forgiveness of sins, and by him all that believe,' that is all like you, who have received forgiveness, 'are justified.' As surely as you have received your welcome, there is the best robe for you."

"What is that?" asked my friend.

"Our robe," I replied, "is our justification before God, our being accounted righteous for Christ's sake, as if we had not sinned. Being justified by faith we have peace with God, we have access to our Father in heaven, and we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

"Next, there is the ring for our hand, a token of our oneness with Christ now, as we were one with Adam before. His God is our God, and his Father ours. We are united to him, as a bride is united with her husband.

"Then there are the shoes for our feet, to protect us from the flints and thorns of this world. While we are in the body we come into contact with the world, just as our feet touch the ground upon which we stand. We need this protection, and it is provided for us by and in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

"Lastly, we have the fatted calf, the feast of communion with the Father, in the gift of his beloved Son for us. He so loved us that he gave us his Son, and we love him in consequence, and so feast and rejoice with him in the banqueting house, where the banner over us is love!"

My friend was evidently thinking, and was silent. I therefore continued, "When you see a rejoicing Christian, one who is not afraid or ashamed to tell what the Lord has done for his soul, you see a man in the banquet. Such an one recommends it, and is not content to feast alone, but longs for others to come and partake with him of his Lord's bounty. It is as free for them as for him."

"I do not wonder now," said my friend, "at the doubts and misgivings I am subject to. I am nothing but a door-mat Christian! I have been trying my best to make myself happy by doing all the good I could to other people. How may I enter into all these privileges?"

I answered: "You may have them as freely as you received pardon. You received that by simple faith, by the same faith you may rejoice in your justification before God, and realize your oneness with Christ, the protection of his grace, and the fulness of his blessing. It is all provided and offered together, though you enter into the experience of these several blessings one by one, progressively. Why take five pounds, when you may have twelve thousand three hundred and forty-five?"—The Christian.

A REMEDY FOR POVERTY.

The money that drink takes from a man's pocket is the least of its robberies. It takes also his power to replace the money. Brain cells, nerves, tissues, muscles are all impaired, and in the end the victim becomes physically, mentally, and morally utterly incompetent as a wage earner. It is because Prohibition strikes at this cause of individual debasement that as a remedy for poverty it stands forth the unapproachable chief. The single tax will not do this.—Zion's Advocate.

NEW CLUB RATES.

The following are the NEW CLUB RATES for the MESSENGER, which are considerably reduced:

Table with 2 columns: Quantity and Price. 1 copy... \$ 0 30; 10 copies to one address... 2 25; 20 " " " " " " " " " " " " " " 4 40; 50 " " " " " " " " " " " " " " 10 50; 100 " " " " " " " " " " " " " " 20 00

Sample package supplied free on application JOHN DOUGALL & SON, Publishers, Montreal.

MONTREAL DAILY WITNESS, \$3.00 a year, post-paid. MONTREAL WEEKLY WITNESS, \$1.00 a year, post-paid. JOHN DOUGALL & SON, Publishers, Montreal, Que.

DOMINION PRIZE COMPETITION.

THE STORIES SENT TO THE JUDGES—THEIR NUMBER—WHERE THEY COME FROM—WHAT THEY ARE ABOUT—WHAT WILL BE DONE WITH THEM.

One thousand one hundred and ninety-three stories have been received in the Dominion competition. This is a great many, yet we expected more. There should have been more out of above ten thousand schools. Still, we are not dissatisfied. On the contrary, the results have been more than satisfactory. In the first place every Province is represented. In the second, a very casual observation shows that there are many really good stories amongst them. Our readers will be pleased at this, for we purpose printing some of them in the Witness, and others in the Messenger, and giving portraits of the young authors too, if we can get them, and possibly in some cases of the persons directly interested in the events. Of the stories

Table with 2 columns: Province and Count. Newfoundland sends... 12; Prince Edward Island sends... 72; New Brunswick... 121; Nova Scotia... 167; Quebec... 131; Ontario... 703; Manitoba, &c... 30; British Columbia... 17

The ratio between the number of contributors and the English-speaking population of the Canadian provinces, according to the census of 1881, is as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Province and Contributor Count. In Prince Edward Island, one contributor for... 621; Nov Brunswick... 2,020; Nova Scotia... 3,200; Quebec... 2,000; Ontario... 2,050; Manitoba... 1,237; British Columbia... 811

If this ratio proves nothing else it proves how widespread the circulation of the Witness and Messenger are, and how thoroughly Canadian is its constituency.

What are they about? About pretty nearly everything—hunting adventures, adventures on the rivers and lakes, lumbering adventures, love stories, adventures in the early wars, clearing the forest and making farms, in fact nearly everything in the history and progress of this country that one can think of. The "Boys' and Girls' Stories" Column of the Messenger will be an interesting one this year. We want the boys and girls to work for their paper by getting subscribers for it, so that their friends may read these stories. The post card scheme, advertised in this number, is a good one. Will they try it?

THE POST CARD SCHEME.

AN EASY WAY TO CIRCULATE THE "MESSENGER."

It is difficult sometimes to send small sums of money. We are inclined to think the trouble costs more than the money. This sometimes causes delay in sending, or, perhaps, the dropping of a subscription. To overcome this difficulty we have determined on a scheme which is quite simple and will lessen the labors of those who are kind enough to aid us in extending the circulation of our papers.

The price of the Northern Messenger is thirty cents a year, which is very low. In order to introduce it to new subscribers we offer it at the rate of fifteen cents for six months. We have prepared a post card of which the following is a copy:

Form for postcard: Good for six months' subscription to the NORTHERN MESSENGER From the time this card is received at the WITNESS Office. To: Name Post Office Province Mailed: 188

We will supply these post cards to any one at the rate of four for fifty cents, or

eight for one dollar, that is twelve and a half cents each. They then can be sold if desired at fifteen cents each. When one is sold, all that you have to do is to fill in the name and address of the person to whom the paper is to go and mail the card which is already addressed. Thus you are saved the postage and all the trouble of writing a letter, addressing an envelope, registering, etc. If any one desires to make a friend a present of a six months' subscription to the Messenger all that is necessary for him to do is to send him the card with instructions to fill in his address, or do it himself and mail the card.

ADDRESS.

Address all letters to the Northern Messenger, care of John Dougall & Son, 321 and 323 St. James street, Montreal, Que.

THE WITNESS.

A DAILY PAPER mailed to any address in Canada and the United States for \$3.00 a year, that contains the latest news and most interesting reading, valuable market reports and everything that any person who wants to be kept fully informed of the events happening all over the world, cares to know.

A WEEKLY PAPER mailed to any address for \$1.00 a year, with the world's news summarized, much interesting reading for the home circle, valuable hints worth many dollars a year to the thoughtful, Question and Answer columns by eminent specialists which are much thought of by subscribers, and a circulation of 31,000 copies, showing its great popularity.

"CHRIST BEFORE PILATE."

A perfect copy of a picture which was sold by the artist for \$120,000 cash, a single copy being sent to any subscriber to the Daily or Weekly Witness or Messenger for 25 cents in addition to the subscription prices. Send for sample copies of the papers and subscribe for them.

JOHN DOUGALL & SON, Publishers, Montreal, Que.

THE "WEEKLY WITNESS"

-AND-

MANUAL OF BIBLICAL GEOGRAPHY.

The revised edition of Dr. Hurlbut's "Manual of Biblical Geography," is being much appreciated. It is prepared specially for the use of students and teachers of the Bible, and for Sunday school instruction, and contains over fifty maps, twenty-five of which are full page size, 12 in. by 10, and one of the Old Testament world, covers two pages. Besides these the Manual contains a large number of special maps of important localities, mountains, cities, etc., and also a large number of colored diagrams showing heights of mountains, areas of tabernacle and temples and Bible weights and measures, with accurate views of the principal cities and localities. The retail price of this book is \$2.75. By a special arrangement with the publishers we are enabled to offer this valuable work with one year's subscription to the Weekly Witness for only \$2.75, the price charged for the book alone; or we will send it and the Northern Messenger for one year to any address for \$2.00.

JOHN DOUGALL & SON, "Witness" Office, Montreal.



JOLLY BABIES.

Is your baby jolly? or is it peevish? Lactated Food nourishes babies perfectly, keeping them healthy. Babies living upon it sleep well nights, laugh and crow days, always plump and happy. Regulates the bowels and helps in teething. At druggists, 25c., 50c., \$1.00. WELLS, RICHARDSON & CO, Montreal, P. Q.

Imperial Pen and Pencil Stamp.

Your name on this useful article for marking linen, books, cards, etc., 25c. Agents sample, 30c. Club of six, \$1.00. EAGLE STAMP WORKS, New Haven, Conn.

RELIABLE PRINTED DIRECTIONS for Preserving Eggs over 18 months etc E. MORLEY, Vienna, Ont

THE NORTHERN MESSENGER is printed and published every fortnight at Nos. 321 and 323 St. James st., Montreal, by John Redpath Dougall, of Montreal.