A Happy Pamily.

BT D. H. D. GOUDALE.

Twas a bitter cold morning the new failen snow had pierced every crack where a snow-faste could go,
The streams were all solid, the ice sharp and ciear. and even the fishes were chilly. I feat

Almost all the wild creatures were troubled and cold.

And sighed for sweet summer, the shy and the bold.

But one thrifty family, as you must know, Was breakfasting merrily under the snow

Ciose by a tail tree, in a hole in the ground.
Which led to a pariour with leaves cushioned round
Five joily red squirress were sitting at case. eating their breakfast as gay as you

OUR PERIODICALS: The best, the chespest, the most enter cost popular.

Christian Guardian, weekly 8100 Methodist Megasine and Review, 90 pp., monthly illustrated 200 Christian Guardian and Methodist Magasine and Review 275

Christian Guardia and Methodis Magazine and Magazine and Rethodis Magazine and Rethodis Magazine and Retriew, Guardian and Grawal to Tab Wagazine. The Wagazine Charles of the

WILLIAM BRIGGS, Methodist Book and Publishing House, Toronto.

W Coares. S. F. Hurans. 2175 St. Catherine St., Westeyan Book Re Montreal. Halifax, N.S.

Pleasant Hours:

PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK. Rev. W. H. Withrow, D.B., Editor.

TORONTO, MAY 26, 1900

JUST WHAT SOUTH AFRICA IS

Allen Sangree contributes to Ainslee s an article on South Africa. This is how the country appeared to him "You land in South Africa at the foot of a mountain 3,600 reet high. They call

it Table Mountain, and the well of his that, excepting on very clear days, ove hangs it, South Africans are pleased term the 'Tablecloth' Presenting term the 'Tablecloth.' Presenting a front of solid rock 1,000 feet in height, perpendicular as a wall, and for half a mile on top quite level, this mountain offers the best natural sign-board on mile on top quite lever, this mountain offers the best natural sign-board on earth. Time and again have English firms attempted with fabulous sums to secure it for advertising purpose, but as yet, breaks been on such dofarement. "Table at a table marks the up and of the Dark Continent. Brow it nestles the city of Cape Town, a beautiful by marketing out in the foreground.

the city of Cape Town, a beautiful one stretching out in the foreground. On the west the mountain breaks off abruption, and the railway aktris about it to the interior on the east it slopes off into a hilly picturesque formation known as 'Lion's Back,' and then gradually rises into the Drakensberg mountains. This is the only great mountain range south of the Zambeal, and the production of the Tambeal, and the Tambeal, and the Tambeal of the Tambea

is geographically. 1s geographically.

Learning along the east coast from Capo Colony northward, you have the Drakensberg in view nearly all the way to Beira a distance of 2,000 miles. In

to Beira a distance of 2,000 miles. In Cape Colony and Natal the mountains in many places dip to the water's edge, and with a field glass one may see on their crags and peaks smoke curling up from the natire villages. In Portuguese tentiory the mountains recede slights from the coast, and at Delagoe Bay there is

the coast, and at Delagoa Bay there is an intervening stretch of lowland wenty miles wide. At Beirn this has increased to sixty miles. At the Zambest the Drakensberg ends.

"To get into the interior of South Africa from any of the five east coast innding-places. Port Elizabeae East London, Durben, Delagoa Bay, and Beirs, one must that cross a short extent of lowland, and then ascend attemp moun-

liaving arrived there the traveltains er is conscious of little or no descent. vast plateau that extends to the Zambesi

sast plateau that extends to the Zambesi on the north, he Atlantic Ocean on the west, and varies in slittude from 3,000 to 5,000 rete above the sea level.

"A fringe of tropical country, where bloom the magnolia and the rose where flourish the orange, pine-apple, iemon, suway, grape, banan, the otton and the tea plant, a long stretch of mountain running parallel with the industry and the highest peaks of the country of the pine stretch of the capped stretch of wheel and co., a gras prayrie, and the highest peaks and co., a gras prayrie, and the pine prayrie of the capped stretch of wheel and co., a gras prayrie. the highest peaks of which are capped with snow and in whose valleys wave tracts of wheat and cc.n. a vast pravie, dotted here and there with patches of scrub woodland, mission stations, and immense farms with millions of sheep and cattle grazing thereon; a few thou and handless cancered like great landscape much the batched huts and were but a brech-clouit; a dozen largo towns where is heard the clang of the American trolley-car and the clatter of the police-patrol, and about which men cluster as files gather to a jar of sweets, the remnants of a once mighty coological garden, including many leopards, beautifu and litthe baboons, antelopes, lackals and crocodiles, a less number of hippopotami, and a few herds of buffalo, elephants and giraffes, some fron ore, some coal, some copper, and a little with the control of the

A STORY OR A DINNER. BY MISS M. M. SANDERSON

F MISS L. M. SANDERSON.

The morning sun shone brightly into Mrs. Engells' little dining-room. It may have thought it a pleasant place to linger in, for it wandered all over the room, making the spotless cloth on the breakfast table whiter, and the glass sparkle more brilliantly, dancing in and out of all corners, until it became too saucy and actually shot into Dora's eyes.

The sun is in my eyes, mother," said she; "may Frank fraw down the blind t"

The sun may blind ?"

blind?"
Yes, do, Frenk," his mother said.
"Girls are silly, said Frank, as he slowly rose to do as his mother asked.
Who would think that Dora would rather have it dark than see the levely

sunbeams chasing each other around
"Never mind the blind, Frank," a
Dora. "I did not see them playing,
just thought my eyes were dazzled."

just thought my eyes were dazzied."
That is my good little giri," said her mother "And now that our breakfast is finished, we will see how they pag."
This was a favourite game with them.
"You count ten places first, Frank, where they are, and what you see," Dera

Frank felt 't was very good of her to give him the first chance, and his eyes danced as he said, "You're not silly, you are a brick."

Dora felt pleased indeed, for this was

Dora fett pleased indeed, for this was the highest praise Frank could give her And then the game began.

"The butter-cooler is full of colours, red, blue, green, and yellow."
The tea-spoons are taking the sunbeams photos."

"They are smilling at mother from the

They are smiling at mother from the

Her rings are going razzle-dazzle."
Our sliver knives are gold."
The egg-shells are ivory."
Just one more." said Dora, softly "You rhine-stone pin is a diamond

Now I am through said Frank. They are tright fancies," said his

"Now I am through said Frank.
 They are bright fancies," said his mother, "and remind me of a story I one read about a king whose touch changed everything to gold "
 Do tell us the story, mother please," cried Dorn and **rank eagerly.
 But Dorn hes not had her chance to tell what the "absems are dolny."
 Newer mind, "said Dorn, "I would far rather hear the story and you sell one of the story and you had not be to the story and you will not be story and you will not be said to the story and you will not be said. "I mother "he said can gold." When Mrs Enrolls smilled, and said. "When

Mrs. Engells smiled, and said, "When to have had wrayers, we will see about

it"
Verse about they read the home-reading for the dry, the connection between it and the Sunday-school lesson was then pointed out by Mrs. Engells. Afterward they kneled down and one prayed very simply that God would be with them all through the dry. "and give us food to ext. if it is thy will" she said. There all repeated the Lords France. An extending rose Dera and Frank looked they will be a said the said that the will be a said to the will be a said to

Haven't we anything to eat, mother?"

rayent we anything to eat, mother? saked Frank.
"No, dear. We had just enough for breakfast, but I hope two of the scholars, will pay their fees, they were due yesterday."

"Don't look so said, mother, dear," said Dora, putting her arms round her and kissing her. We can do without dinner we can do without dinner we can do without dinner duch a nice breaktat."
"It would be good fun." said Frank, "o see how it feels not to have any dinner Lots and lots of boys and girls go on one meal a day."
"You are my comfort, indeed: but after all, I hope I will get some money, and not have to see you hungry, and have nothing to give you to eat."
"If you do not get the fees, will you cluster will get some money, and and the list story instead "asked Dora.
"Yee, dear We can have a cup of tea, and I will tell you about King

will tell you about King and Engells had a private school, Mrs.

Mrs. Engolis nad a private scaool, with about forty scholars.
They came punctually but brought no money The teacher's heart was heavy that morning Her school was a high-class one, only children from good homes being admitted

being admitted
Their tees were usually very promptly
paid To wait a day or two would not
have troubled L.r generally, but, as we
have seen, she was hard pressed just

She said nothing, however about it, but dismissed them brightly at noon. After making the tea, she sang most unconsciously her favourite by she sang al-

Oh, for a faith that will not shrink. Though pressed by overy foe."

Frank and Dora came in soon after, going a little way with their friends.

They knew there would be no dinner, for they had seen that Elsa Carrathers and Jean Barton had not gone up to the

In they had seen that Elsa Carrathers and eean Barton had not gone up to the "Don't you think it is mean of them. "Don't you think it is mean of them. mother?" asked Frank. "No, dear; they would not think a few days would natter to me, and they might easily forgest it was due. Generally, it would not signify, but you see, last week there was the quarter's rent, and gas bill, and water rate, and then coal for the winter, so that I am left without any money. We have the mother with the winter, so that I am left without any money. We have the mother when the winter, so that I am left without any money. We have the said then coal for the vinter, so they fire," said Dora, eager to make her mother feel happy Neither "I had to said they loved her so much After drinking the tea, their mother said, "I suppose you want to hear about King Midna, my deare "and the we have so loved fire," and when they mother pletured to them. After drinking the tea, their mother said, "I suppose you want to hear about King Midna, my deare "and the wind when the work of the children could be seen any the work of the wind when they mother pletured to them has the work of the work of

down town and see what we call get for tea. Has Frank come in yet?"
Before Dors could answer he came in, looking radiant.
"I met Mrs. Carruthers and Mrs. Bar.

"I met Mrs. Carruthers and Mrs. Barton, so I hurried home to go with you."
"That is sight, my boy. They must have felt flattered at the welcome they had from us ali."
"The others" (that was what Frank always called the scholars), "were wishing they could have some care to tell them stories at dinner-time."
"Willie Jackson says he is going to have you live with us when we are married, and tell us stories, said Dont. "They never said anything oddermin," said Frank, "but I'm just link added you will live with me half the time."
"That would be only fair," his mether

said
"I would not want to be selfish," Dora
said "It would be nicer if we could
always keep on all living together,"
"It is in God's hands, my dears, and
we can safely leave it to him."
"He reminded Mrs. Barton and Mrs.
Carruthers to pay the fees, I expect," said
Frank. thoughtfully
"And we have had such a happy day,"
"And we have had such a happy day,"

said Dora

"We must go to bed now, it is getting late," and, after reading 1 few verses from the Bible, she commended her chilen and herself to his keeping, and forusen and nerself to his keeping, and for-got not to pray for all who were hungry, and to thank him for his loving care of them all through the day. Toronto.

A CHINESE LADY.

How unlike she !- to a Canadian lady ! How unlike she is to a Canadian lady! She has dark eyes and raven locks, which are drawn tightly back from her face and used to cover a queer framework looking like butterfiles wings, or some other fastle shape. Her forehead appears retybroad, as just before her wedding day, all the abort hafrs over her how were drawn out to give it this wide, open appearance. Several of her integrandia are very long, for that is a sign she is a lady and



has little work to do with her hands. To keep these nalis from breaking she wears over them little shelds of gold or-silver. But look at her feet! Could any one-over imagine that ther, were the deel of a grown in whoma? They have been bound and comprised with strong option

hurry and eat your dinner, and don't chaiter, but of course there are nine of us, and that makes a difference," said Fred Green.

"Well." said little old-fashioned Joyce Burna, "I just wish mother could have been diversely been and the second of the seco