

some peculiar atmospheric conditions, flashes upon mountain, lake and sea, transforming the whole face of nature, until even the barren wastes of wilderness wear an aspect of glorious gaiety. The rich blue sky wears a more than midsummer softness and depth; the water seems more crystalline; the sun sets in more voluptuous splendour than at other times. Summer is departing with its pride and its profusion, while the face of nature for the space of a few warm transparent days is genial and serene. But yet there is an indefinable touch of melancholy interest everywhere present, as if unseen the parallels of the enemy were hour by hour being brought closer to the ramparts of summer's citadel. . . .

The gorgeous pageant of Indian summer is at an end. The saturnalia is over. The Canadian autumnal season in allegorical design is not correctly personified by the figure of a melancholy, sad-eyed maid; rather it appears before us like some mad Maenad, scattering with debonair graces the magnificent ashes of autumn, left by the passing of fierce flames of scarlet and gold over the northern woodlands.

Home Visitation.

I have had considerable experience, and have learned many lessons by visits to the homes. Some homes were not very pleasant to enter, but I was always well received.

Every teacher should be willing to do anything that will help her to succeed. Our short call will enable us to see the child's home environments. We also will see and learn something about the parents.

Thus we gain knowledge that will help us in studying individuality, the peculiarities in the character and disposition of our scholars.

We will understand better how to manage them, and thus avoid compunction of conscience for inflicting a sort of punishment on a child, with whose nature we are not acquainted.

How delighted the parents are to see our interest in their boys and girls, and this is especially true in the homes of extreme poverty. They thus have a chance to hear of the progress of their children, and many cases of tardiness and truancy have been cured in this way.

We hope to sow some little seed of good by our visit, and the effect of the visiting will also be seen in the schoolroom.

We are more than repaid for any self-sacrifice by the delight which the little ones show on account of our visit to their homes. I have found better lessons and greater desire to please, as a result of the visits.—*The Teacher.*

Lord Meath Empire Day and Challenge Cups and League of the Empire Prizes.

The following are the subjects and conditions for the Essay Competition for Empire Day, 1910, inter-all secondary schools and inter-all primary schools of the Empire Day, 1910:

A. SECONDARY SCHOOLS. *Subject.*—"The improvement of communication between the different parts of the British Empire; its political and social effect." *Conditions* (secondary schools): A Silver Challenge Cup, value £10 10s., presented by the Right Hon. the Earl of Meath, K. P., to be held by the school, and a personal prize of £5 5s., given by the League of the Empire, is offered for competition inter-all secondary schools of the Empire for an Empire Day essay not exceeding 2,000 words. Age limit, 14 to 18.

B. PRIMARY SCHOOLS. *Subject.*—"The influence of the different climates of the Empire upon domestic and social life." *Conditions* (primary schools): A Silver Challenge Cup, value £10 10s., presented by the Right Hon. the Earl of Meath, K. P., and a personal prize of £3 3s., given by the League of the Empire, is offered for competition, inter-all elementary schools of the Empire, for an Empire Day essay not exceeding 1,000 words. Age limit, under 14 years old.

All essays must first be judged in the schools, and afterwards by the education authorities kindly co-operating with the League, or by branches of the League in the different countries of the Empire. Only those essays sent in through authorized channels will be eligible for the final judging arranged for by the Federal Council of the League in London. The essays which are entered for the final judging in London must reach the central office by the first March next.

The names of the winning schools will each year be engraved upon the cups, which are replicas of the Warwick vase. The cups and prizes will be dispatched in time to reach the winning schools on Empire Day, the 24th May.

Further particulars may be obtained from

THE LEAGUE OF THE EMPIRE,

Caxton Hall, Westminster, S. W.

Who are the blest?

They who have kept their sympathies awake,
And scattered joy for more than custom's sake—
Steadfast and tender in the hour of need,
Gentle in thought, benevolent in deed;
Whose looks have power to make dissension cease;
Whose smiles are pleasant, and whose words are peace.

—Anon.