

## Correspondence

Wallace Bay, N.S.

Dear Editor,—My birthday comes on the third of December. I have been a reader of the 'Northern Messenger' ever since I could read. We also have the 'Weekly Witness' and 'World Wide.'

ISAAC B. P.

Brodie, Ont.

Dear Editor,—We have been getting the 'Messenger' for a long time, and think it a very nice paper. I go to the Presbyterian church. I have two brothers and one sister. We live on a farm. I am fourteen, and my birthday is on Dec. 25. I go to school, and I am in the fourth book. I like my teacher very much. Wishing the 'Messenger' success,

J. McC.

St. Croix.

Dear Editor,—I must write to tell you how fond we are of your paper. We have taken it for fifteen years. We live in a pretty village on the St. Croix river. We have a woollen mill, paper and pulp mill, and also two lumber mills. I have two sisters and five brothers. I am eight years of age. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

CECIL M. S.

Yale, Michigan.

Dear Editor,—I am a subscriber to the 'Messenger,' and we have been taking it for about three years, and we would not be without it, it is so nice. I am fourteen years old, and my birthday is on Oct. 9. I wonder if any little girl's birthday is on the same day as mine. We were living in Watford, Canada, but we moved to Yale this spring. Yale is a village; it is a nice little place. We have over an acre of land. My papa is a carpenter; he has built a nice little house on it, and we are living in it now. I had a canary bird, but it died; its name was Prince. I have one little sister, and she is five years old. I go to school; we live about six blocks from my school. My teacher's name is Miss Baxter, and she is a very nice teacher.

FLORA A.

Beach Meadows, N.S.

Dear Editor,—I am a little girl eleven years old, my birthday being on Dec. 4. I am very much interested in the Correspondence page of the 'Northern Messenger.' We read such good letters from other little girls. I am the oldest of five sisters. So I need not be lonely. The youngest of my sisters is sixteen months. She is beginning to walk. My mamma has taken the 'Northern Messenger' ever since she was a little girl. Wishing your paper success,

MILDRED G.

Port Burwell, Ont.

Dear Editor,—My birthday is on Nov. 27. I am six years old. I was born in Treherne, Man., and came to Ontario four years ago last May. We used to get the 'Messenger' out west, and I would like to read a letter in the 'Messenger' from some of our little friends in Treherne. I have one brother. We both go to school. Success to 'Messenger.'

W. H. W.

Oak Point.

Dear Editor,—I have two sisters and one brother, and my oldest sister goes to school in St. John. My father takes the 'Messenger,' and my grandfather does, too, and I like it very much. I like to read the Little Folks' Page. My brother has a little pup named Flo. We have two big cats and one kitten. We have a little colt named Jean.

HELEN E. I. (age 11).

Folger.

Dear Editor,—I have seen so many nice letters in the 'Northern Messenger,' so I thought I would write one. I have taken the 'Messenger' but a short time, but like it very much. I have three brothers and two sisters. The school is four miles away and the church is three miles away. I saw a piece in the 'Messenger' about the Finns. My mother and father came from Finland,

and an uncle also, who is now in the United States. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

ETHEL B. P.

Riversdale, Col. Co., N.S.

Dear Editor,—I live in a country place, thirteen miles from Truro, N.S., and the trains pass close by our door. Mamma and my little sister Pearl and I had a pleasant trip up to Quebec this summer. We also went to Shawinigan Falls, to see my brother. We went by the Quebec and Lake St. John and Great Northern Railways. We camped out with my uncle's family at Ste. Catherine, 21 miles from Quebec. It was great fun picking blackberries and climbing rocks with my cousins, and we used to go bathing in Lake St. Joseph; but fun comes to an end at last. We had to come home and settle down to lessons once again. Our teacher's name is Miss C., and we all like her.

ERNA E. B.

Powassan, Ont.

Dear Editor,—I like the 'Northern Messenger' very much, and have taken it for a long time. I live near the village of Powassan. I have read a good many books. I would like to see a letter in the 'Messenger' from Dora L. Sanftenburg; both of us wrote together before; we were living only a short distance apart in Quebec. She went to a place called Algoma, and I came to Powassan. I have three sisters and one brother. I am fourteen years old, and my birthday is on April 25. When I wrote last time my grandma read my letter, but she is dead now.

MABEL F. E. M.

Clearwater, Man.

Dear Editor,—I like the 'Messenger' very much. My father is the minister, and he takes ten copies for the Sunday-school. We moved from Hemmingford, Que., a little over two years ago. I like Manitoba very well. Clearwater is a small place near a creek. It is sheltered from the wind by bush. There is a lake about nine miles from here called Rock Lake. People come from North Dakota to this lake every summer. I am ten years old. My birthday is on June 9. I would like to correspond with somebody in England who is about my own age.

JAMES L.

Monmouth, Que.

Dear Editor,—I will be fourteen on Dec. 9. I have one sister and three brothers. My father is a blacksmith. My oldest brother takes the 'Messenger,' and I read it. We could hardly do without it. The place where I live is a small town. I go to school every day, and am in the seventh grade.

NETTIE L. McN.

## HOUSEHOLD.

### It is Said

That marble can be cleaned nicely by rubbing with a cloth dipped in turpentine. Polish with a clean and perfectly dry cloth.

That when washing colored shirtwaists, etc., do not fail to rinse in salt water. This frequently obviates all 'running' of color. Turn inside out before hanging up to dry.

That the following plan is a good one to freshen stale bread: Dip the loaf, wrapped in a clean cloth, into boiling water and let it remain there for half a minute; then unroll the loaf and bake it in a slow oven for ten minutes.

That when doing plain sewing, if there is a little flour in a saucer and the fingers are dipped in it occasionally, the hands will be kept free from damp and the work be kept beautifully clean.

That hot water is a good thing to use when flowers are drooping in order to freshen them. The stems should be all placed in a cup of boiling water and left until every leaf is smoothed out. Then the ends of the stems should be cut off and the flowers placed in lukewarm water.

That sponges cannot be kept perfectly clean unless they are wrung out in clean water as dry as possible after they have been used and then exposed to the air until they are dry. When they get dirty they should be left in strong borax and water or soda and water for some hours and then squeezed as hard as possible occasionally.

That dish-cloths should be washed thoroughly every morning in hot water to which a little ammonia or soda has been added, and then be rinsed and hung in the air to get perfectly dry. Two sets should be kept and used on alternate days. In addition to this it is well to rinse them each time after using and to boil them at least once a week.—'North-Western Advocate.'

### Hints to Housekeepers.

Use a long-handled brush in cleaning the walls, or, more properly, a long handle ending in a wire frame covered by a lamb's-wool bag, which may be slipped off and beaten and washed.

Paint should never be scrubbed; but wiped with a soft woollen cloth dipped in warm water. A slight touch of sand soap may be used on a stubborn stain. Dry with a piece of flannel cloth after a good rinsing.

Alcohol will remove grass stains from linen with very little rubbing.

If you value your eyesight don't have any room lighted by a glaring unshaded light, especially from overhead. Lights should be shaded, so that there shall be no glare. This is why reading lamps are so useful. They throw the light down where it is needed, and there is no trying glare on the eyes from them.

If bread has been baked too brown, or if the crust has been blackened in an oven made too hot, do not attempt to cut off the black with a knife. As soon as the loaves are cold go over them with a very coarse grater.

### Our Own.

If I had known in the morning,  
How wearily all the day,  
The words unkind would trouble my mind  
I said, when you went away.  
I had been more careful, darling,  
Nor given you needless pain,  
But we vex our own with look and tone,  
We might never take back again.

For though in the quiet evening,  
You may give me the kiss of peace,  
Yet it well might be that never for me  
The pain of the heart should cease.  
How many go forth at morning,  
Who never come home at night,  
And hearts have broken for harsh words  
spoken,  
That sorrow can ne'er set right.

We have careful thought for the stranger,  
And smiles for the sometime guest;  
But oft for our own the bitter tone,  
Though we love our own the best.  
Ah, lips with the curve impatient,  
Ah, brow with the look of scorn,  
'Twere a cruel fate were the night too late,  
To undo the work of morn.

Once, in a large audience in the West, I repeated this little poem by request. A lady and gentleman sitting in front of me clasped their hands and looked at one another. When the meeting was over, they came to me and said that they had read the poem on the morning of their wedding day, cut it out of a newspaper and carried it with them round the world, with never an idea of the author's name or personality.

If it has a message for any heart, it is because it emphasizes a truth that comes home to every one's experience. We are not on guard with 'our own.' So we speak the blunt or brutal word, out of a passing irritation; we are captious or cynical or despotic with 'our own.' Yet we do love 'our own' the best, and when they leave us what bitter tears drop on their silent graves!