

A Little Brown Penny.

A little brown penny, worn and old,
Dropped in the box by a dimpled hand;
A little brown penny, a childish prayer,
Sent far away to a heathen land

A little brown penny a generous thought
A little less candy just for one day
A young heart awakened for life, mayhap
To the needs of the heathen far away

The penny flew off with the prayer's swift wings,
It carried the message by Jesus sent;
And the gloom was pierced by a radiant light
Wherever the prayer and the message went.

And who can tell of the joy it brought
To the souls of the heathen far away,
When darkness fled, like wavering mists,
From the beautiful dawn of the Gospel day?

And who can tell of the blessings that came
To the little child when Christ looked down?
Or how the penny, worn and old,
In heaven will change to a golden crown?

OUR PERIODICALS:

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The best, the cheapest, the most entertaining, the most popular.

Table listing various periodicals such as Christian Guardian, Methodist Magazine, and Pleasant Hours with their respective prices.

WILLIAM BRIGGS,

Methodist Book and Publishing House, Toronto.
W. Colvill, S. F. Heston, Wesleyan Book Room, Montreal, Halifax, N.S.

Pleasant Hours:

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

TORONTO, APRIL 3, 1897.

THE EPWORTH LEAGUE.

The central idea of this movement is to copy the example of the first Methodists, in uniting for the more careful study of the Word of God and the great themes it unfolds.

The study of the Bible is pre-eminently adapted to quicken and strengthen the intellect, as well as to inspire and sanctify the heart.

The Epworth League is not simply a Bible class; it is broad enough in its sphere of study to embrace all wholesome literature that is adapted to nourish spiritual life.

Many of our young people do not know how rich Methodism is in biography and history. A fuller acquaintance with the deeds and writings of the heroic men and women of Methodism would strengthen the loyal attachment of our people to their own church.

We hate sectarian bigotry. But a loyal love for one's own church is consistent with the broadest Christian charity towards Christians of other churches.

the days of old, and the men and women whose names shine as the stars forever and ever.

A series of reading courses for the Epworth League has been prepared. These courses embrace the Bible, the doctrines, history, biography, and religious life of Methodism: travel, art, science, etc.

In the Methodist Church in the United States, a great impulse has been given to the study of Methodist literature by the Epworth League.

JUNIOR EPWORTH LEAGUE.
PRAYER-MEETING TOPIC.

APRIL 11, 1897.

Adam and Eve out of Eden.—Genesis 3, 23, 24.

CHANGE.

During the time that Adam and Eve resided in Eden, they enjoyed every comfort that heart could desire, but now they are compelled to take their departure, and would no more enjoy those delights of which they had been the partakers for so many years.

SORROW.

They never knew sorrow nor pain in their primeval condition. Disgrace had now befallen them. They were dishonoured, and the cup of sorrow which was their lot, was full of the bitterest ingredients.

DEATH.

The words in verse 23, "Till the ground from whence thou wast taken," seem to have an echo very similar to the words often heard, "Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return."

HOPE.

Verse 24. Here there is a spark of hope. The divine presence is still vouchsafed. The cherubim and the flaming sword are evidences of divine presence, and though man is under sentence of condemnation, God has never left the world without marks of his favour.

Thus we see mercy is mixed with judgment, and this is characteristic of all God's dealings with mankind. Man, while ruined by sin, is at the same time redeemed by Christ.

The volcanoes of Vesuvius and Etna are never both active at the same time.

The cries of sea birds, especially sea gulls, are very valuable as fog signals. The birds cluster on the cliffs and coast, and their cries warn boatmen that they are near the land.

Burmese humanity to animals goes so far as to provide buffaloes kept in stables with mosquito netting. The mosquitoes are as annoying to cattle as to human beings, but when left out of doors the buffaloes can protect themselves by rolling in the mud and letting it cake upon them.

A MEMORY DAY, AND WHY IT IS KEPT.

BY MARY LOMBARD BRODHEAD.

Long ago there lived a nobleman named Kaspar von Schwenckfeld. Perhaps you can tell just how long ago he lived if I tell you that he was at one time a friend of Martin Luther.

In those days, people thought a nobleman ought to spend most of his time in riding, hunting, and pleasure-seeking. They, no doubt, thought Count Kaspar a queer sort of fellow, because he chose to go to school and to the great universities.

This was just at the time of what we call the Reformation. The Bible, that had been shut up in the keeping of the priests, was put into the hands and minds and hearts of the people.

Among those who took the Bible into their hearts was young Count Kaspar. Do you know that the Bible, when it gets into the heart of a man, is sure to shine out in his life, as a candle does when it is lighted and put into a lantern?

When we have been a long while in the dark, it hurts to have a light suddenly shine into our eyes. So it was with some of those who saw the light of Christ in Kaspar von Schwenckfeld.

The hatred and unfriendliness soon grew so strong that the good count and his followers had to leave their homes and all that they had for Christ's sake. Often they were driven into the depths of the great forests.

After their leader died, his followers had bitterly hard times. If there were wars with the Turks, the Schwenckfeldians, as they were called, were put into the front ranks of the battles.

The hatred of their enemies followed them even after death, so far as it could. There was at one time a cruel law that they must bury their dead in the cattle-walk, the rough, hard path, worn by the herds that grazed on the commons.

These cruel persecutions had lasted about two hundred years, when God raised up friends for his suffering children, and provided for them a new home in our own America, where they could have freedom to worship God as they thought right.

If you should go up to the beautiful hills of Montgomery County in Pennsylvania, you would find a good many people still calling themselves by the name of the good count who was the teacher of their forefathers.

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beautiful home. You would enjoy going to a week-day meeting if it were held in a church nestled down in the edge of the woods.

If you ever have the good fortune to spend one of these "memory days" with the Schwenckfelders, you will drive home just when the sun is touching with purple and gold the hills and valleys.

"From all thy saints at warfare, for all thy saints at rest,
To thee, O blessed Jesus, all praises be addressed.
Thou, Lord, didst win the battle that they might conquerors be;
Their crowns of living glory are lit with rays from thee."

—Sunday-school Times.

JACK THE SOLDIER.

"Can't do it. It's against orders. I'm a soldier now," said one newsboy to another.

"Yes, you look like a soldier!" was the mocking reply.

"I am, though, all the same," and Jack straightened himself and looked steadily into Jim's eyes. "Jesus is my Captain, and I'm going to do everything on the square after this, 'cause he says so."

"No; my Captain says, 'Don't steal,' and I won't. What I can't earn I'll go without, and if I'm likely to steal any time, I'll just call to him. He's always watchin' to see if any of his soldiers need help, and he's ready with it as soon as they ask for it. He'll help me to do anything he's told me to do."

Wise Jack! He had learned the secret of a happy, useful Christian life.

SPONGES.

When you use your sponge, do you ever ask yourself where it came from, whether it grew or was made? The sponge is a collection of animals, really, which lay eggs that hatch and increase the size of the sponges.

The Greeks are said to be the best divers in the world. A glass is placed at the end of a large tube. The boat engaged in sponge-fishing passes slowly over the ground while an expert watches the bottom through the large tube, the glass of which is beneath the surface.

All sponges have to be prepared for market. As taken from the water they are unfit for use, and must be cleaned and bleached to some extent. The very white, hard sponges are over-treated, and not as good as those cleaned without any free use of acid.

In Chicago there are 7,000 licensed saloons. The majority of them are open on Sunday.