

THE DRUNKARD'S CUP.

SEE how the vivid lightning gleams  
Within the accursed cup. It seems  
As if fire from hell's great lava streams,  
To moulder and destroy, and haunt the dreams  
Of lord and minion.

Like fiery storms of molten lead,  
Ruin fills the yawning graves with dead,  
Its fires, by wholesale traffic fed,  
Bring thousands to their dying bed,  
As Satan's prey.

What cries are those from the mighty deep,  
That to our ears forever sweep  
Old Whiskey there his vigils keep—  
A drunken crew has gone to sleep  
Till the last great day.

Shall Canada forever be  
The scene of drunken misery?  
Shall generations yet to come,  
By drunken fathers lose a home,  
And sink into the grave?

Woe to the man who takes no place  
In this great war against disgrace:  
The blood of thousands on his head  
A place of torment when he's dead,  
He could but would not save.

—Selected.

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Pleasant Hours:

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLKS:

Rev. W. H. WITHROW, D.D., Editor.

TORONTO, JANUARY 12, 1884.

METHODIST MISSIONS.

FROM the Mission Rooms we learn that the religious reports for the year are, on the whole, encouraging, and in many cases decidedly so. The most marked results have been seen in Newfoundland and British Columbia. In the former place extensive revivals have occurred, resulting in the conversion of hundreds of souls. In the latter a gracious work has been in progress among both whites and Indians. As a result of this work two Missions in the Victoria and New Westminster District have become self-sustaining fields. In Japan there has been steady progress, and in some parts of the Empire there have been extensive religious awakenings. Recent letters contain the cheering intelligence that one of our native churches in Tokio has voluntarily relinquished Missionary aid, and become a self-sustaining charge.

The successes of the past and the many open doors awaiting the advent of our Missionaries, alike call upon us for increased liberality and prayer. The present income is insufficient for

the needs of the existing work, not to speak of much-needed extension. A large advance is urgently required and confidently expected. "Freely ye have received, freely give."

The income for 1882-3 was \$159,228; surplus from preceding year, \$10,608, or a total for the purposes of the Society of \$169,836.

The expenditure for the year amounted to \$165,813.

The cost of management and administration of this large sum was only 4 and 2-10ths per cent. If there is more economical Mission management anywhere we do not know where it is.

THE C. L. S. C.

The Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle is a "College" for one's own home; for any one who can read English with ease, old and young. Busy housekeepers, mechanics, farmers, tradesmen, college graduates, ministers and lawyers, physicians, and accomplished ladies are enrolled in it. Several of the members are over sixty years of age. Among the 40,000 names enrolled the majority are between twenty and forty years.

For information concerning the C. L. S. C., address—L. C. Peak, Methodist Mission Rooms, Toronto; or, Rev. Dr. Withrow, Toronto.

THE TEN VIRGINS.

A JUBILEE HYMN.

The following is a strange weird air given with wonderful effect by the Jubilee Singers. It is one of the most characteristic of their Songs, and, as sung by them, its mournful melody haunts the memory with a lingering spell.

2 Five of them were foolish when the bridegroom came,  
Five of them were foolish when the bridegroom came.  
Cuo. -O Zion, &c.

4 The foolish took no oil when the bridegroom came.  
The foolish took no oil when the bridegroom came.  
Cuo. -O Zion, &c.

3 The wise they took oil when the bridegroom came,  
The wise they took oil when the bridegroom came.  
Cuo. -O Zion, &c.

5 The foolish they kept knocking when the bridegroom came,  
The foolish they kept knocking when the bridegroom came.  
Cuo. -O Zion, &c.

6 Depart, I never knew you, said the bridegroom, then,  
Depart, I never knew you, said the bridegroom, then.  
Cuo. -O Zion, &c.

A NEW YEAR'S GREETING.

WE rejoice at the privilege of renewing our acquaintance with so many of our old friends, and with so large a circle of new ones. We trust that through the successive months of another year, our pleasant relations may be increasingly interesting and profitable to us both, and that the friendship begun on earth—for we regard as a friend every Sunday-school worker, though we may never see his face or know his name—may at last be consummated in heaven. We hope all our readers will endeavour to promote the usefulness of this periodical by its circulation. We cordially wish, dear friends, teachers and scholars, that this new year may be the best and happiest year that ever you have known.

We have several urgent requests from poor schools for donations of second-hand books. Will not schools which are replenishing their libraries kindly glean out those that they can spare and send to the Rev. W. H. Withrow, Toronto, for distribution to schools needing them?

NEVER wait for anything to turn up. Go and turn it up yourself.

THE CATECHISM FOR 1884.

FOR some months we have been printing in the Sunbeam the new Methodist Catechism, No. 1, for the little folk. We begin with the New Year to print in the PLEASANT HOURS, Banner and Quarterly the new Methodist Catechism, No. II., for older scholars. It is the best summary of Christian doctrine and Bible history we ever saw. It was prepared at the request of the Wesleyan Conference in England, by the Rev. Dr. Pope, one of the ablest theologians living, and is published by order of the General Conference of the Methodist Church in Canada. We hope that both these catechisms, No. I. and No. II., will be diligently studied in the schools. We know of nothing that will so fill the mind with scriptural views of God and our relation to Him, and the duties springing out of these relationships, as the study of these little summaries of the doctrines of Methodism throughout the world.

THE Missionary Reward Books for the Juvenile Collectors, are very attractive. There are six in the series, and they are graded according to the amounts raised. Last year the aggregate of Juvenile givings was about \$23,000.