

# The Canadian Epworth Era.

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WILLIAM BRIGGS, Publisher.

Vol. III.

TORONTO, APRIL, 1901.

No. 4.

## AT EASTER TIME.

The little flowers came through the ground,

At Easter time, at Easter time;  
They raised their heads and looked around,  
At happy Easter time.

And every pretty bud did say:  
"Good people, bless this holy day;  
For Christ is risen, the angels say,  
At happy Easter time."

'Twas long and long and long ago,  
That Easter time, that Easter time;  
But still the pure white lilies blow,  
At happy Easter time.

And still each little flower doth say,  
"Good Christians, bless this holy day;  
For Christ is risen, the angels say,  
At blessed Easter time."

—*Youth's Companion.*

## Happy in Spite of Storms.—A

preacher, writing to the *Texas Christian Advocate*, says: "All that the South Texas storm and flood left me was a wife, eight children, a good case of religion, two ponies, and a dog, and I am the happiest man in Texas." True is it that the storms of this life cannot shake from his secure foundation the man whose life is hid with Christ in God.

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**A Mistaken Notion.**—The late ex-President Harrison, in addressing the Railroad Young Men's Christian Association Convention at Philadelphia, said: "The idea that railroad men must be rough is giving way. It is not necessary. If you are picking out a brave man now you can't say: 'Always take the man that swears the most.' There used to be a thought of that kind in connection with soldiers—that a soldier must be a rough, boisterous, swearing, drinking man. But General Howard and others took that notion out of the minds of men. It is the conscientious, God-fearing soldier that will stay the longest in a hot place."

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**Easter Sunday.**—Once more Easter time has come. Let us make much of it. Easter Sunday should be made a glad and happy day, with flowers, and anthems, and appropriate sermons. In their endeavor to avoid anything that savors of Romanism or Anglicanism, there are some churches that pay no attention whatever to Easter. We believe they make a great mistake. We cannot afford to ignore this great day of the Christian year, commemorating, as it does, the most important fact of Christianity. The young

people can do something by decorating the church with flowers, and by visiting charitable institutions and private homes, to hold services with those who cannot attend public worship. Let everybody be made to feel that Easter is one of the brightest days of the year.

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**An Unusual Will.**—A lady named Mrs. Crawford, who was converted at meetings held by Messrs. Crossley and Hunter some years ago, died recently in Cobourg. Her will was rather unusual, not in the amount left to Church and benevolent purposes, but for the fact that all the denominations of the town were remembered. The Anglican Church received \$2,000, while the Methodist, Presbyterian, Congregational and Catholic Churches were left \$1,000 each, and the fund for aged ministers of the Methodist, Presbyterian, and Episcopal Churches was supplemented by \$500 to each. We believe in loyalty to the Church of one's choice, but the spirit of catholicity which recognizes the good work done by other churches is admirable.

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**News for the Chinese.**—A Chinese newspaper is to be started in New York. The new paper will be largely filled with news translated from the metropolitan dailies. At present the only way in which the vast majority of Chinamen can hear the news is by paying from one to five cents each night at some informal club, while a professional reader translates extracts from the daily papers. The editor has imported from China a font of type which consists of 12,000 characters.

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**Appropriate Telegrams.**—During the Wisconsin State Epworth League Convention, Rev. Dr. Filben, Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements for the coming International Convention, sent the following telegram from San Francisco: "Committee invites you to California (Deut. viii: 7-9); Coast Methodist needs you (Acts xvi: 9). California, 1901." This enlarged reads: Committee invites you to California, "A good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills; a land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and honey; a land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any thing in it; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass." Coast Methodist needs you. "Come over into Macedonia and help us." The following telegram was sent in return: "Wisconsin Epworth League sends greetings (Zech. viii: 20-21). Chas. D. Thompson, Secretary." This enlarged

reads: "Thus saith the Lord of hosts; it shall yet come to pass, that there shall come people, and the inhabitants of many cities. And the inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, Let us go speedily to pray before the Lord, and to seek the Lord of hosts. I will go also."

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**The Growing Tongue.**—One of the wonders of the closing century was the immense spread of the English language, as compared with other European tongues. In 1801 the relative order of the prevalence of these tongues was as follows: 1. French was spoken by 31,500,000. 2. Russian, by 31,000,000. 3. German, by 30,500,000. 4. Spanish, by 26,000,000, half of them outside of Europe. 5. English, by only 19,750,000, of whom 5,000,000 were in the United States, and 750,000 elsewhere. Now, the order is reversed, so far as English is concerned, for that language takes the lead with 130,000,000, of whom 75,000,000 are in the United States, 40,000,000 in Great Britain and Ireland. German comes next at a respectful distance, closely followed by Russian. French makes a bad fourth, and Spanish comes last.

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**A Great Picture.**—The "Descent from the Cross," painted by Rubens, which hangs in the Cathedral at Antwerp, is a masterpiece of Flemish art. This remarkable picture contains nine figures, each full of expression and vivid action. Two workmen placed on the top of two ladders are lowering the body of Christ by means of a winding sheet which one holds in his teeth and the other grasps with his left hand. Below them Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus are placed opposite each other. John, with his foot on the ladder and his back bent in, clasps and supports the body. One of the feet rests on the fine shoulder of the Magdalene. The Virgin is standing with outstretched arms, and next to her is Salome, crouched down. On the ground is seen a dish, a scroll, the crown of thorns, and the nails used for the crucifixion. The principal light of the picture is formed by the body of Christ and the winding sheet. This is one of the finest figures ever painted, and, in a position most difficult, is correctly drawn. The hanging of the head on one shoulder and the falling of the body to one side, so remarkably express the heaviness of death that nothing can excel it. None but a great colorist like Rubens would have ventured to paint pure white linen next to flesh. The historical anecdote relating to this picture states that Rubens painted it in exchange for a piece of ground upon which he built his house.



The attention of Corresponding Secretaries is directed to an article on page 16.