

Correspondence

ETHICS.

Dear Boys and Girls,—No doubt you all read the tale of Tommy Jones as related by 'Florence Irene' in these columns last week. I wonder how many of you thought that Tommy did right in spending the dollar as he did. Of course it would have been very wrong for him to spend the money on candy when his mother worked so hard for the bare necessities of life; but was that dollar his to spend? It had been given him to carry to his mother, therefore it was no more his than was the parcel which his mother had sent him with to the other house. He had no right to spend it at all. Tommy should have gone straight to his mother and given her that dollar; then she could have sent for the wood if she wanted it, or if she was more in need of flour or tea she could have sent for that. I want to make this plain, because I think most little people are not sufficiently sympathetic with their parents and teachers,—they do not try to put themselves in their place and understand their thoughts and wishes. The young people do things that just come into their own heads, or things that they have read somewhere, and think that that is great and wise, without consulting their parents as to whether these are right and just things to do.

There are too many 'Tommy Joneses' abroad in the land to-day—people who do not realize the difference between the things they want and the things that are really theirs: children who wish to act independently of their elders, shunning advice and reproof because they think they know best for themselves. Silly children, they know that they are wiser than their baby brothers and sisters, yet they fail to realize that their parents are proportionately wiser than they. Many a young person has made absolute shipwreck of life because of these very faults, spending other people's money and acting without the advice of those who were older and knew more about life.

I tell you these things because I love you, and I want you to grow up useful and noble men and women, able to lead and to teach others who may not have had your advantages.

Your loving friend,

THE CORRESPONDENCE EDITOR.

Brome Corner.

Dear Editor,—I thought I would write a letter, and I thank you for printing such a good little paper. We live on a farm. I have four sisters and two brothers. We have a mile and a half to go to school. I have one grandmother and one grandfather living. I will close, wishing all the readers of the 'Northern Messenger' a Happy New Year.

EDWIN C. K. (aged 12).

South Victoria, N.S.

Dear Editor,—I am ten years old, and my birthday is on March 25. I have a pet cat, and he weighs fourteen pounds. I have two sisters and one brother. Their names are Jennie and Annie and George. I had quite a few sleigh drives this winter. My sister Jennie takes the 'Messenger.' I weighed seventy-two pounds the last time I was weighed. I am five feet in height.

EVELYN R.

Tidnish, N.B.

Dear Editor,—My sister Grace takes the 'Messenger,' and I like it very much. I like the Little Folks' Page the best. I like the country better than the city and town. We have two cats. I go to school. I have two sisters and one brother. I am the youngest of the family. My birthday is on Sept. 10. I am ten years old.

MARY C.

Knowlton, Que.

Dear Editor,—As I have not seen any letters from Knowlton, I thought I would write one. Grandpa took the 'Messenger'

when my papa was a little boy, and it has been coming to our family off and on for a good many years. I have five sisters and one brother; he is eight years old. My sisters are all older than I. I wonder if any of the little boys and girls who read the 'Messenger' have a birthday the same as mine, which is on March 11. I am ten years old.

EMILY N. H.

Newbury, Ont.

Dear Editor,—I take the 'Messenger,' and have it sent to me in my own name. My mother gave it to me for a Christmas gift. My birthday is on the 7th of April, and I will be thirteen years old. I have two pet cats. One is named Colonel and the other General Tom. Colonel is very playful. I have two brothers and two sisters, and I have one grandma. I saw one letter from Wardsville, and it looked familiar, because that village is only three miles from where I live, and we know a good many people there. Newbury is thirty-six miles from London, and about seventy-five miles from Windsor. Wishing the 'Messenger' success,

ANNA G. G.

Snow Road.

Dear Editor,—I was out for a drive this morning. I have not had a drive for a long time, and I enjoyed it very much. I go to church and Sunday-school every Sunday. We have a library in our Sunday-school. I wonder if anyone else's birthday is on the same day as mine, on April 28.

S. MAY W.

Bothwell, P.E.I.

Dear Editor,—We live on a farm near the seashore. My father fishes a little for mackerel and cod fish. We live about a mile from the school. I study geography, history, grammar, and arithmetic. My birthday is on Feb. 3, and I will be fourteen years old. I do some work—wash, scrub, milk, and a little cooking and baking.

VICTORIA MAY C.

Upper Blackville, N.B.

Dear Editor,—I like the 'Messenger' very much. My grandmother takes it, and we live with her. I live on a farm on the banks of the Miramichi River. My birthday is on Feb. 5. I go to school. Our teacher's name is Miss Mary McD., and I like her very much. The schoolhouse and church are both on our farm. I have three sisters and three brothers. I have a brother and a sister married. My sister lives very near to my own home. My papa has gone to Patten, Maine, to work for the winter. We have a dog named Dash, and a colt named Morgan. We have a tabby cat named Tom.

M. L. A. (aged 11).

Coldbrook, Mass.

Dear Editor,—I am ten years old, and I live on a farm about a mile from Coldbrook. It is a little village. I have one little brother six years old. I have for pets one dog, two cats and a horse and some little calves. I have only lived here since last March. I came from New York State. My cousin in Potsdam, Kate B., has taken the 'Messenger' for a long time.

NELLIE C.

Lachine, Que.

Dear Editor,—My home is in St. Laurent. I live with my grandmother and auntie in Lachine to go to school. I go to the Lachine Academy, which was once the Lachine Model School. I took the Government examination last June, and came second. I am fond of drawing and painting. I take music lessons. I go home for the holidays. I have four sisters and one brother. My auntie has taken the 'Messenger' for nearly three years. My birthday is on Oct. 4. I am thirteen years old.

ETHEL L. H.

South Victoria, N.S.

Dear Editor,—A boy wrote to the 'Messenger,' and he said he was twelve years old and was five feet five inches tall. I am thirteen years old, and am five feet six inches in height. That is nearly as good

as that, isn't it? Wishing the readers of the 'Messenger,' also the Editor, a Happy New Year,

JENNIE R.

South Maitland.

Dear Editor,—I have not been taking the 'Messenger' for a very long time, but I think it a nice paper. Lizzie O'B. takes it, and she sends it up to her grandfather. I got it from him, and as I thought it a nice paper, I subscribed for it myself. I have seven sisters and five brothers. I have one brother out in Red Deer, Alberta. Mamma is reading the 'Messenger' now. She is reading the story about 'Harold's Birthday.' I have a little nephew whose name is Harold.

ABBIE A. M.

Carmi, Ill.

Dear Editor,—I am a girl thirteen years old. I live in a town, and go to school every day. I like to read the 'Messenger' very much. It is a good paper. I enjoy reading the stories and the correspondence in it. I go to Sunday-school every Sunday. There are five girls and eight boys in my class. I read the 'Messenger' more than any other paper. I always learn a verse to say at Sunday-school. I have read thirteen chapters in the Bible this week. I have two brothers and three sisters. My papa is a minister. My birthday is on Nov. 16.

STELLA M. B.

East Glassville, N.B.

Dear Editor,—I am a little girl eight years old. I have two sisters and one brother. Their names are Hazel and Lily and Clarence. Lily is one year old and Hazel is five years old. My brother Clarence takes the 'Northern Messenger,' and I think it is a very nice paper. I like the Little Folks' Page best. We have fine fun skating and sliding. My papa shot a deer this fall. I have read quite a number of books. Some of their names are: 'Pansy,' 'Ruby, or a Heart of Gold,' 'The Wishing Cap,' 'The Crew of the Dolphin,' 'The Bible for Young People,' 'Rachel Rivers,' 'Nursery Travels,' 'Fairy Tales,' and one or two others.

MYRA A. R.

Metcalf, Ont.

Dear Editor,—I live about three miles from Metcalf, and like this place very much. My father has taken the 'Witness' for over thirty years, and the 'Messenger' for seven years. I like to read the stories in both papers, and would not be without them for anything. I live on a farm, and we have a lot of cows and sheep. I was fourteen years old on Oct. 29.

ERNIE S.

Bergen, Man.

Dear Editor,—I am a reader of the 'Messenger.' I like it very well, especially the many letters from all over the continent. We had a Sunday-school at Little Mountain for many years, and I got the 'Messenger' there; but the Sunday-school superintendent moved away west, and after that we have had no Sunday-school. I wish we had one now. We only have one at Winnipeg, which is eight miles from here, and it is too far to go in the winter. We had a feast and a Christmas tree in Winnipeg on Christmas day, and we got books and presents, and had a good time. I am going to school nearly every day. We have a mile and a half to go to school, which is rather far in the stormy and cold weather. I am twelve years old, and I have one brother and two sisters younger than I am going to school.

EDWARD H.

Dexter, South Dakota.

Dear Editor,—I am a little girl almost ten years old. My grandma in Nova Scotia has sent me the 'Messenger' for two years, and we like it very much. I live out on the prairie in South Dakota. It is so level here that we can see for miles and miles. It is nice here when the sun shines and the wind does not blow; but it blows very hard sometimes. When I was a little baby my mamma and I were blown away in a cyclone here, and we were hurt very much. My papa raises lots of grain. He had four thousand bushels this past