

### Do Your Best.

I've something to tell you  
A plan you can try,  
How to be very good,  
As the hours go by  
A plan very simple,  
For a child or for man  
And this is the way,  
"Do the best that you can"  
But that means a great deal  
And so it is plain,  
If we fail the first time,  
We must try yet again  
In all this wide land,  
To the East or the West  
If we want to succeed,  
We must just do our best  
—B. WELLS WALLACE

### PUPILS' LOCALS.

From the Girls' Side of the Institution.

MAUD THOMAS

—New Year passed enjoyably here though very quietly

—The ground has been covered with snow for some time. The little children enjoyed snow balling outside.

—Last week, one evening Mrs. Bails kindly invited all the teachers, and when they came back they reported having an enjoyable time.

—It was very kind of Miss Fanny Ball's youngest brother to present her with a lovely purse as a New Year's gift, and she appreciates his kindness.

—Last week, the reporter was so glad to receive a kind letter from Miss Ethel Swayze stating that she is slowly improving. We missed her very much indeed.

—On the 9th inst., our dear Superintendent, Mr. Mathison, celebrated his 50th day, as hale and hearty as ever. We all join in wishing him much happiness and hearty congratulations, hoping he may be spared to see many happy returns of the day.

—Last Tuesday was Miss Anne Henderson's birthday. We all wished her a very prosperous and happy birthday. Last Saturday afternoon Anne and Miss Edith Wilby spent all afternoon visiting Miss E. Irvine, and they had a pleasant time.

—Misses Maggie Noonan and Annie Hilliard have just received two photos from their dear brothers, with which they were much delighted. They seemed so proud. We all think Maggie's brother is a dandy, and Annie's is such a sweet boy and resembles her.

—On New Year's Eve, our little girl, Marion Waters was much delighted to have a visit from her dear mother. She spent all day visiting the various class rooms and shops. She was so deeply interested in our school. The day after she went home, and poor Marion felt very lonesome without her.

—On the 11th inst., one of our teachers, Mrs. Ostrom, who resigned here, was united in marriage to Mr. Gilbert of New York at the residence of her mother. The bride received many beautiful and costly presents. They left for New York where they intend to reside in the future. We all wish them success.

### WINDSOR NOTES.

From our own Correspondent

Mr. Chas. Elliott, of Toronto, has been visiting his sisters in Detroit. He dropped in to see Bert Sepner, at the shoe shop, and was fortunate enough to find Mrs. Sepner and Ed. Ball there. He was on his way to visit Miss Connelly, in company with his sister Eva. He says Detroit is a fine place, but Toronto is better after all. We do not agree with him.

Can hardly get enough news to make a recent show in the Merr. The nutes here are all such great stay at home, never wander from your own fire sides, they never do anything worth mentioning. As Mr. Elliott remarked, pity we are a little more sociable.

Already is the grim hand of age laid on your scribe. Why, it was only the other day, venturing for a skate I sat down very unceremoniously on the glassy surface of the frozen pond. Alas! what a come down for the resplendent Accountant!

Bro. Byrne, let me thump you on the back and say in the words of the immortal Bill Nye, "Them's my sentiments, boyakly." I think it's a first rate idea. I own up, never have I attended a convention because they were always held too far east. Now let all you fellows lend a hand and have it at Hamilton, London, or some place in between Ottawa and Windsor.

Bring it a hundred miles nearer anyhow. Well here we are fairly launched into a new year. The old year—its joys and sorrows are far behind. Our lives are pretty much as we ourselves make them. Every succeeding year we become imbued with the idea of doing a little better than last year, but somehow, when the dawn of another year comes, we are prone to confess it was a dismal failure. We all have our allotted place and time. It depends on ourselves alone, what the result is. A. J.

### HAMILTON ITEMS.

From our own Correspondent

We wish you a Happy New Year. Robert McPherson has been away to his home in Brantford during the Christmas holidays, and had a very pleasant time and a good rest under his parental roof.

Andrew Waggoner went to Toronto twice, during the holidays in response to the nutes' urgent invitations to spend his holidays with them for a jolly and good time generally. He reported having a very nice visit in the Queen City.

On Dec. 31st, in the afternoon, C. Golds fell down in a fainting condition in the McPherson Shoe Factory, and was taken to his home in an ambulance. It was found that he was suffering from a pain caused by twisting his back. However, it was not very serious and now he is up around all right.

Owing to the failure of the Winn's shoe firm in Milton, Wille Watt and Charles Mortimer lost their situations, besides some money in wages. Both came to this city and while at once got a place in the McPherson Shoe Factory where A. Waggoner and C. Golds are working. All are steady and well liked by all in the factory. As yet Mortimer has not obtained a job, but is stopping here with his parents.

We were pleased to read in the Merr., J. B. Byrne's letter concerning the coming convention, and about the best place to hold it. We agree with him that every time the convention is held for the benefit of all the nutes, it should be held in a new locality, for the same reasons which he gave in his letter. We always supposed that about two-thirds of all nutes in Ontario lived west of Toronto, and if it is correct, will it be convenient for all, if the coming convention was held in Ottawa, the distance being so great?

Harry Gottlieb and family of Brantford are comfortably settled in No. 26 Canada Street and will be glad to see any who will take a notion to visit them.

With the exception of two or three, all the nutes in the city have good and steady employment and are doing well.

J. F. Jefferson has been in the city about three weeks, on some business of his own, and the nutes have found in him a man of pleasant company, among many things of which he has talked was the one chief topic, his going to the gold fields in the spring. We wish him success.

By another correspondent

Mr. O'Neil has secured a job in the Dowswell's planing mill.

On the 9th inst. Mr. Stanley of Stoney Creek, was in the city, and stopped with Mr. Mosher.

Mr. John Fisher who used to work in the printing office in the States, has secured a job in Dundas, at the Star office.

On the 3rd inst. Mr. Shepherd was in the city for a day, on his way from Brantford to Toronto.

It is reported that many of the nutes would like the convention to be held in this city.

Mr. Waggoner thinks of joining the Y. M. C. A. soon and he says he will be in perfect condition in the spring and when the convention is held would like to meet any cyclists who may be there.

Since Christmas, Mrs. Barlow and family have been on a visit to their parents home in Marmora. Just as we go to press Mr. Barlow has received a telegram calling him to go at once as his little baby was very ill, and it has since died. The parents have our sympathy in their affliction and loss.

Mr. J. Gates of Toronto, was a brief visitor here the other day. He is on a visit to his sister, Mrs. Band, of the Quante Hotel in Belleville.

A man endowed with great talents without good breeding is like one whose pockets are full of gold, but who lacks change for every-day use.

### PERTH TOPICS.

From our own Correspondent

Work in the C. P. R. Shops here was very slack before Xmas, therefore a large number of the hands were laid off for a week or so. Messrs. Patrick and Luddy were laid off on the 22nd ult., and went to Ottawa and Carp on a visit. Mr. Noonan accompanied them as far as Carp, but returned to Perth after visiting a couple of days at Mr. Stephen Lett's Messrs. Patrick and Luddy spent Christmas at Mr. Lett's and the following day (Sunday) they with Mr. Stephen Lett and Miss Lila Lett drove out to see Miss Anne McElbride and had a pleasant time. Two brothers of H. McElbride, who is at your school now, were also there. Mr. Luddy afterwards visited Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Hodgins. Their little boy only two years old, knows some of the signs. Mr. Loyd Armstrong is hired with Mr. Hodgins. Mr. Luddy was the guest of Mr. Lett most of the time, but also visited Mr. Robert Semsons, and spent New Year's day at Mr. Michael Murphy's. The last two mentioned graduated from your school in 1870. Mr. Patrick regretted he was unable to visit them, as he had promised to pay some of his relatives and friends a visit, which took up the rest of his time. Mr. Luddy returned to Perth on the 3rd inst., but at the time of writing Mr. Patrick had not yet returned.

It has been stated on very good authority that the C. P. R. passenger trains from Toronto to Montreal will have a new route. A new road will be built from Perth to Carleton Place, and the trains will go on to Ottawa, where another new road will be built along the Ottawa River in Ontario to Montreal, the direct line by Smith's Falls to be left for freight traffic. Perth will be made a divisional terminus and have a dining room added to the station. The car shops here are to be made permanent and additional buildings erected for the purpose of constructing passenger cars in them.

Toronto has had the convention and it seems to be Hamilton's turn now. The nutes of the east, however, would rather have it in Toronto as it is the most central location in the province. It would rather be a wild cat scheme to have it held at London, Woodstock or any other far western point, while Ottawa should never have it. Mr. Byrne's suggestion in the last issue of the Merr. is an excellent one. Several nutes in the east have informed your correspondent that they will not attend the next convention at all, but wait till it is held in Belleville.

On the 11th inst., twenty passenger cars and ten sleepers were commenced to be built at the shops here. This is the first time passenger cars were ever built in the Perth shops. The general foreman has received an order for 1,700 box cars and will start on them in the spring. The shops will be kept busy moving next summer, and perhaps some of the departments will be running day and night.

The authorities of the shops here always find it necessary to reduce the force of men during the winter. We are sorry to lose Messrs. Ebister and O'Brien from among our midst. We are pleased to hear of the former's success in getting a job in Toronto and hope the latter will come back in the spring if he can't find anything else better to do.

Mr. F. Stewart, yard foreman at the C. P. R. shops here, is a brother in law to Miss Gertrude Holt, now at your school.

A brother of Mr. Keith's, supervisor of boys at your school, is employed in the car shops here and is quite a friend of your scribe.

Mr. Luddy has learned through his friend Mr. Ferguson, of the Albion Hotel, where he boards, that Mr. Fred Crozier of Westport, has quit baking and is learning printing. They issue a small paper there and I have lots of job work. Mr. Ferguson met Mr. Crozier while on a visit in Westport, and of course Fred was inquiring of his old school mates at Perth.

See that you lose nothing by inattention and delay, be deliberate and sure in forming plans and prompt and efficient in their execution. —E. Rich.

Enthusiasm is the element of success in everything. It is the light that leads, and the strength that lifts on and up in the great struggles of scientific pursuits and of professional labor. It robs endurance of difficulty, and makes a pleasure of duty.

### The Flight Of The Arrow.

The life of man is an arrow's flight,  
Out of darkness into light,  
And out of light into darkness again  
Perhaps to pleasure, perhaps to pain

There must be something, above or below  
Somewhere unseen a mighty bow,  
A hand that throes not, a sleepless eye  
That sees the arrow fly and fly.  
One who knows why we live—and die  
—H. H. Stoddard

### OIL SPRINGS.

From our own Correspondent

Perhaps this will be the latest Christmas and now year echo from this district.

Mr. and Mrs. Turrill, of Florence, parents of David A., were in Detroit with their daughter for Christmas, thus leaving David lonely at home but, however, he was cheered by a visit from Kenneth McKenzie, who kept him company over Sunday.

Duncan Bloom spent his Xmas and New Year holidays with his parents in Glencoe, and then returned to his shop in Thamesville, no doubt greatly benefited by the change; he is a very hard working man.

On the 30th of Dec. last, David A. Turrill and his brother Daniel were here doing some business, thus giving David the opportunity of making a flying visit to Wilho Kay.

On the 7th ult., Roderick McKenzie called on Wilho Kay, on his way to Sarma, and on the 9th he took him by surprise at Mr. Wm. Esson's house, after missing him at his own place. Then he proceeded homeward and will stay with his cousin, Mr. Michael Showers, for some time. The way he talk'd about his Christmas visit at Alma Mater indicated that he had an immense time. I may say that he was just that size when he first entered the Institution in the fall of 1870, only at the age of eighteen, hence the chief topic of conversation during the opening of the term.

### Care of the Ear.

When the wax has become so hard that syringing fails to remove it, the patient should lie on a bed or couch with the affected ear upwards, and a little warm salad oil—must not be overheated to cause pain—be gently dropped into the ear, and allowed to remain there for a few minutes. This will soften the wax and then, it followed immediately with a warm water syringe, most probably the desired result will be attained. But if, after the second or third attempt, the wax has not been dislodged, and the noise and ringing in the ear continue, medical advice should be sought.

Cautious—If the syringing be too long continued it is apt to cause inflammation. Frequently the wax comes away in such small particles that it is unobscured, and then the water is squirted directly on to the drum of the ear, which is extremely harmful. And never think where gently syringing has failed, the object will be obtained by violently forcing the water in the ear. Such a course is likely to produce evils of the most serious and complicated nature.

In discharges of the ear, a complaint from which children suffer much more frequently than grown up persons, the strictest attention to cleanliness must be paid. If the irritating discharge be allowed to accumulate, it undergoes decomposition, and may give rise to grave mischief. Unless under medical advice, the ears should never when in this—or any other—condition be plugged with cotton wool as it prevents the free exit of the discharge, which is then forced back into the interior of the ear, and becomes of a foul irritating character, which not only injures the ear, but being to a considerable extent re-absorbed by the system, deteriorates the general health, and may if suffered long, possibly produce consumption.—Home Chat.

Early habits of method and regularity will make a man very exact in the performance of all his duties and punctual in his payments.—George Crabbe.

Sometimes, says Uncle Eben, a man puts on a long face and says he is discouraged, when he's simply too lazy to try again.—Washington Star.

A teacher of children totally deaf from birth, having explained to his class how a dog expresses joy by wagging its tail, and told them to express the lesson on their slates, found that one slate contained this amusing piece of information: "My dog hurrahs with his wag."