OUR S. S. BIBLE COMPETITION.

PRIZE WINNERS FOR THE SECOND QUARTER.

Day school examinations seem to have somewhat crowded our Bible Competition, for the second quarter of the year, into a second place. The number of essays on the International S. S. Lessons for the months of April, May and June is nothing like as large as the number sent in on those of the first quarter. Never mind, we shall expect great things in the next three months. This time, the boys take the lead.

THE FIRST (SENIOR) PRIZE has been won by John C. Readey, Rosetta, Ont., and

THE FIRST (JUNIOR) PRIZE by Joseph Brown, Colinville, Ont.

THE SECOND (JUNIOR) PRIZE goes to Mildred Louise Gould, Embro. Ont. We extend to these young students our heartiest congratulations, and will expect to hear from them next quarter.

'WHAT! WORK IN THE HOLIDAYS?'

The 'Messenger' editor hears a few hundreds ask. Certainly-this kind of work. It is just the kind you will find you have the most time for. The long, lovely Sunday afternoons in the country, or the quiet ones in the cool parlor or balcony of your city home after Sunday-school, you will find are just meant for this. Get your Bible and your concordance and maps and note book and pencil, and get out to your hammock on the veranda, or the rustic seat under that old maple, or on the knoll under that old gnarled apple tree; or settle yourself in that cool came chair in the darkened parlor, and—why, you will find that supper time has come before you are half through the points you intended to master. You see elsewhere what the prize winners say of their prizes. Who will be the prize winners next time?

FOUR HANDSOME PRIZES.

Four handsome prizes will also be given for the four best essays on the portion of the Life of Christ taken up in the International Sunday-school lessons for the months of July, August and September. The prizes are as follows :- For those over twelve and under twenty-one.

1sr Senior Prize.—A handsome reference Bible with limp covers, concordance

2ND SENIOR PRIZE.—A life of some noted missionary, illustrated.

JUNIOR PRIZES.

The First and Second Junior Prizes are just the same as those given to the older competitors, except that we give the little ones a Bible without a concordance as that adds much to both bulk and weight.

HOW TO SEND ESSAYS.

The essays must not exceed 600 words and must be written on one side of the paper only. On the upper right hand corner of the first page write a nom-de-plume or motto by which your essay may be distinguished. Enclose in sealed envelope your full name and post-office address with motto on outside and pin this in with the sheets at the upper left hand corner. Do not roll or fold the essay in mailing. Essays will be accepted up to the 13th of October. Address all essays

BIBLE COMPETITION,

Northern Messenger. JOHN DOUGALL & SON, Montreal.

PLEASANT WORDS FROM PRIZE WINNERS.

being appreciated is seen in the fol-lowing letters of acknowledgment. We thank the writers most heartily and not only them, but many others whose kind words of commendation we have not space to publish.

MESSRS. J. DOUGALL & SON,

MESSRS. J. DOUGALL & DON,

MONTREAL.

GENTLEMEN:—I beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of the Bible awarded to Master Miles Langstaff in the 'Northern Messenger' Competition. It was received in good condition and I am before. I know it would be a relief in

confident that Master Miles will be delighted many ways to have a stated sum to draw TO SUBSCRIBERS IN THE UNITED with his prize as well as gratified with his success

in essay-writing.
He is away from home for his helidays, otherwise he would be pleased to forward his acknow-

wise he would be pleased to 10, water ledgments.
Your little paper, the 'Messenger,' is taken by our Sunday-school (Presbyterian) and is highly appreciated by teachers and pupils.
Allow me to thank you not only for the prize received by Master Miles, but also for the very commendable effort, ou are making to encourage the study of the Bible among the young people of our homes. Yours sincerely.

L. F. Langstaff.

Ontario, July 2, 1894.

JOHN DOUGALL & SON.

MONTREAL, QUE. Deak Sins:—Please accept my heartiest thanks for the beautiful Bible you have sent me as Senior prize in the 'Northern Messenger' Bible Competition. I had long ago ceased to expect a prize, but I felt that the close, connected study of the Bible necessary in preparing the essay had amply repaid me, so that when it came as such a pleasant surprise, I almost felt that it was more than I deserved.

pleasant surprise, I demonstrate than I deserved.
We have taken the 'Messenger' for years and would not know how to do without it, 'Again thanking you, I remain,'
Yours truly,
EDNA I. STONE.

July 7, 1891.

can take.

Another Sabbath-School worker in Ontario, in remitting for a supply of the Sabbath-School edition of the "Northern Messenger" writes as follows:—'I am so glad that we have been enabled to take it again as I think it is the best paper we

'TAKES EVERY CENT!'

Good morning, Mrs. Roberts; a penny for your thoughts, though by the gravity of your countenance I should judge them worth millions. I hope I do not intrude, and Mrs. Gray hesitated on the threshold of Mrs. Robert's private room, to which the maid, on the strength of her intimacy with her mistress, had sent her unannounced.

'Oh, no, indeed; come right in. I am only too glad to have someone in whom I may confide. I can hardly ask advice, for there seems but one course left open, and yet I do want so much to do something for the spread of the gospel.'

Mrs. Gray looked surprised. 'Why, my dear friend, do you not? I beg your pardon, but you told me the other day that the church's demands were very heavy this

Mrs. Roberts flushed, looked annoyed, but finally said: 'I believe after all I am in need of advice. Let me make a full confession. The demands of the church are heavy. I scarcely enjoy any of the service for fear some new contribution be asked; but, my dear, I am not responding to scarcely any of those demands, nor do I see how I can do so. You know Mr. Roberts' salary is small and our expenses heavy, try as hard as I may to be economi-For the sake of our children we must live in a respectable locality, where rents and living are no small item, and we must go respectably clad, and it just takes every cent to do it. Oh, of course we pay our pew rent, and occasionally something more; but I never have anything for extra occasions, such as thank offering, for instance. It is that which is troubling me now.'

'Could you not give some of Mr. Smith's Mrs. Gray put the question money? quietly, without a touch of sarcasm in her voice; but the quick tears filled her friend's eyes, and she said in a hurt tone:

'I did not think you would mock me.' 'I would not do that for the world,' was the quick rejoinder; 'but, oh, my dear friend, you have quite as much right to spend Mr. Smith's money as you have to spend the Lord's.'

If you mean that we ought to set aside a tenth of our income for religious and charitable purposes, I can only say that it is quite impossible, and the Lord does not ask the impossible. No one would enjoy doing it more than I.'

Tknow. Two years ago I said almost exactly those words to our pastor, who had asked a contribution toward the new church How well our S. S. Bible Competition is building, and I will reply to you as he did ing appreciated is seen in the foltone: Nine-tenths with the Lord's blessing will do more for you than ten-tenths without His blessing. I am so sure, after these years of trial not only of the truth of His answer but also that there can be no exceptions in the rule God gave to His people. Small salaries as well as large

upon for the Lord's work, but suppose at the end of the month I should find myself

in arrears, do you think it would be right to give when my debts were unpaid?

Mrs. Gray smiled. 'The devil has a great many objections to systematic giving. for it always increases spirituality; and he will not cease to ply you with them until you have finally settled that you owe the Lord as truly as the butcher or grocer; and I do not believe, my dear, but that your management is too careful to allow

yourself to run in debt.'
'You will excuse me, I know, if my question seems rude, but will you tell me just

how you manage it? 'Certainly. My husband draws his salary monthly. He, himself, when he decided to give systematically, purchased a small combination safe, such as your Willie keeps his pennies in, and in the little drawer marked 'For the Lord.' Upon drawing his salary one-tenth is at once placed in the little safe, subject to demand. We also have a little book in which these amounts are entered and, underneath, the various objects to which they are given. Generally, the greater part of the tenth is already planned for, and it never lies long in the

But do you never feel like borrowing when some unlooked-for emergency arises in the household? You see I am determined to know all about it. Mrs. Roberts

spoke apologetically.
'You may ask all the questions you wish for I am sure you intend to try the blessed plan yourself,' said Mrs. Gray heartily. 'No, indeed, I never feel like borrowing the Lord's money any more than I feel like borrowing from you. You know I have an unconquerable aversion to debt, and besides, through planning to spend my tenth, I have become more acquainted with the needs of the world, and they are so many and so great I am much more inclined to borrow from the nine-tenths. It is so blessed to give. I am looking forward to our coming thank-offering with delight, and for one month I shall drop my other 'causes' and give nearly all my tenth to that great cause.

'I see you do not give grudgingly, but cheerfully. I am sure you are right in all that you have said, and if Mr. Roberts can be brought to see as I now do, there will be one more family henceforth pledged to systematic giving,' Mrs. Roberts said de-

Then I am sure there will. I do not believe there are as many hard-hearted men as some would have us think. A man must be an ogre, indeed, that would bind his wife's conscience in such a matter. This question is, I believe, like many other grave ones in the hands of the sisters. Oh, that they might be roused to an approciation of their responsibility!'—Northwestern Christian Advocate.

'A LITTLE HAND.'

A little hand within my own I hold: More precious 'tis than silver, gems. Or gold.

Oh, darling little hand, that clings To mine! Oh, loving, trustful eyes that Softly shine!

I feel my great unfitness For the task; More patience, Lord, more gentleness

I ask ; More love with which to teach it Love Divine:

Less faith. in my own strength, much more More courage, faith, and hope, to point

The road That narrow road and strait, which leads To God.

From 'Good Cheer.'

" MESSENGER CLUB RATES."

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