

ing men who have told me that fruit has often taken away the craving for drink. I met a clergyman recently who told me that a diet consisting largely of fruit had taken away entirely a craving that had troubled him for years.' There is no doubt there is something in this latter cure, for 'pure diet' involves not only good and wholesome food, but abstinence from all alcoholic liquors. The question is how are you going to persuade the confirmed drunkard to adopt a pure diet. A curious feature about these cures is that they occur a long way off. We have America, France, Germany, all quoted. Why can't we have some 'cures' shown to us at home here in England, where we may investigate them? If they are found to be sound and good, depend upon it we shall do our best to propagate them. Until that time arrives, we repeat that there is no remedy so potent as that of total abstinence. When the physical dangers of strong drink are realized by the masses, we may hope that fewer numbers will fall victims to the alcoholic habit.

Two Brave Boys.

There is a certain little boy in New York who is a zealous member of a Band of Hope. During the holiday week he went with his mother to dine with an aunt. Other guests were at the table, uncles, aunts, cousins, and a glass of beer was placed before each. Johnny, our English boy, did not touch his.

'Drink your beer,' said his aunt.

'No, I thank you, I don't want it,' said the boy.

Not wishing him to appear impolite his mother said:—'Johnny, you must drink your beer, you see we all drink it.'

'No, mother, I cannot,' he replied.

His uncle thought him stubborn, and he too urged the little fellow to taste his beer, but all to no purpose. That vexed his uncle. Said he—'If I had a boy who would not obey me, I'd punish him severely, that I would; he should be made to obey.'

'Johnny, why don't you drink it?' asked his mother, receiving in reply these words from the brave little fellow:

'Mother, I have learned if a boy drinks beer he will want something stronger by-and-by. When I grow up I want to take care of you, and I must earn money to do it. I want a clear head, and can't have it, nor a strong body if I drink beer or other liquors. You won't make me drink it, will you?'

Did she? No, indeed! She was proud of her boy, showing it by the loving look bestowed upon him, while the tears came to her eyes at this expression of his love and desire to care for her. The others said he was 'on the safe side.'

Another little fellow who had learned also the nature of the drink had enrolled himself as a member of a Band of Hope. Not long after he was taken ill, and tossed about in his crib, burning with fever. The doctor said he must take wine every day to keep up his strength. The boy heard him.

'No, I can't take it, doctor,' said he, 'I promised never to touch it.'

'That's all right, my boy,' said the doctor, 'you don't need it when you are well, but you must take it now as a medicine, because I tell you to,' and, thinking of frightening him into obeying, added, 'You may die if you don't take it.'

'Well, I'll die rather than break my pledge, I'll take the bitterest, nastiest kind of medicine, doctor, but I won't take any wine.' Then he began to cry.

The mother quieted him by saying, 'We'll have something else in place of wine, dear; you must drink plenty of nice sweet milk and beef tea, and keep perfectly quiet.'

The boy did not die. By careful nursing he soon was able to sit up in his crib. One morning as he sat bolstered up playing with his favorite toys, the doctor entered the room. 'Well, doctor,' said the boy, 'you can't say the wine cured me, for I didn't take it.'

'You know too much,' said the doctor.—'League Journal.'

No Cigarette Smoking Wanted.

Mr. George Baumhoff, superintendent of the Lindell Railway, of St. Louis, says: 'Under no circumstances will I hire a man who smokes cigarettes. He is as dangerous on the front end of a motor as a man who drinks; in fact, he is more dangerous. His nerves are bound to give way at a critical moment. A motorman needs all his nerve all the time, and a cigarette smoker can't stand the strain. It is a pretty tough job for men in good condition, and even they sometimes get flurried. If I find a car beginning to run badly and getting irregular for any time, I immediately begin to investigate the man to find out if he smokes cigarettes. Nine times out of ten he does, and then he goes for good.'

Correspondence

Norwich.

Dear Editor,—I have been reading the correspondence, and thought you would like to hear from our town. The population is about 1,500. There are four hotels, which are far too many for the good of our young men. There are five churches, English, Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist and Friends and also Salvation Army barracks. I am also glad to say that I am a Sunday-school scholar of the Presbyterian Church. I have been as far west last summer as Rock Island, Illinois, and find there is no place that observes the Sabbath as we do in Ontario. I have one brother and one sister who live in Chicago and a dear little niece. My grandfather Hill took the Montreal 'Witness' and 'Messenger' when my mother was a little girl.

ALICE W. (aged 11).

Souris.

Dear Editor,—Having read your 'Messenger' to-day I noticed the letters getting fewer. We have taken the 'Messenger' for about a year. We have a large brick school which always has a good attendance. There are four churches here, all of a pretty good size.

RUBY E. M.

West Brook, N.S.

Dear Editor,—I saw a letter from a Vermont farmer boy, and he suggested that we ask questions through the correspondence, and I think it is a very good suggestion. I will answer his question 'should alcohol be used as a medicine?' Sometimes, when no other stimulant can be had, it is necessary to use it to save the patient's life, but when some other stimulant can be had I do not think that alcohol should be used. I will ask another question: 'Should wine and other alcoholic drinks be used in cooking?'

FRANK C. A.

Mitchell.

Dear Editor,—I get the 'Messenger' at Trinity Church Sunday-school, and I like it very much. I am nine years old; my birthday is the last day of the year. I go to school every day. I like my teacher very much. I have nearly half a mile to walk to school. My Sunday-school teacher's name is Miss Jones. There are eight girls in my class, and we all love our teacher. I have a cat and a pug dog for pets. I call my cat 'Kittie' and the dog 'Flossie.'

LIZZIE M. M.

Dawson Settlement.

Dear Editor,—My father owns a steam mill. I have four sisters and four brothers. I go to school, and live two miles from the schoolhouse. My Sabbath-school teacher's name is Miss Ethel Keirstead. I have three sisters that play the organ, two of whom play the violin.

MILDRED M. (aged 14.)

Whitmouth.

Dear Editor,—Our village is growing quite rapidly, and the country up and down the river is settled for about twelve miles. Our village is prettily situated on the Whitmouth river. There are two churches, three stores, two mills, and one schoolhouse. I have two canaries and about eighty chickens and a dog. We are going to have a school

concert next week. I am in some pieces. I like a continued story. I was very glad to get the paper to read 'Black Rock.' I hope you will print another story in your paper like it. The summer was very dry until about the first of September and then it rained for a long time, but now we are having lovely weather.

DOT. R. (aged 12.)

Allan's Corners.

Dear Editor,—My father is a farmer. We take the 'Messenger,' and like it very much. We have two horses, sixteen cows, 31 turkeys, 18 geese, and 100 hens and chickens. I have four sisters and two brothers. My twin sisters are four years old.

GRACIE E. M. (aged 10.)

Souris.

Dear Editor,—I get the 'Messenger' at Sunday-school. We have taken it for about a year. Souris is a very pretty little village, situated on the Souris river. There are over seven hundred and fifty people. We have a nice park in the summer time and have a lot of nice picnics in it. We have a good-sized rink and quite a few skaters.

JESSIE K.

N. W. Harbor, N.S.

Dear Editor,—I am a little girl, almost seven years old. I live with my grand parents close to the seashore. We can see the big steamers and vessels passing along outside the harbor. Sometimes ships are wrecked on rocks called the half moons, which we can see every fine day. I have a twin sister, one brother, and a baby sister who live near us so I see them often. I am much larger than my twin sister. We have lots of pets; one of them is a parrot that talks. My grandma has been taking the 'Messenger' for twenty-five years. Sometimes it came in my mamma's name. We can not do without it. It is very pretty here in summer, but in winter the sea breeze makes it bleak. My grandma reads the 'Messenger' to me, and I like to hear the letters.

FLORA E.

Kingsboro, P.E.I.

Dear Editor,—The 'Messenger' is a welcome paper in our family; every one is eager to have the first glimpse of it. I hope to take it for many years to come. Our family moved to the United States when I was only two years old, and remained there eight years. My father is farming now.

JESSIE M. B.

McFord.

Dear Editor,—I am 10 years old. I go to school every day. I have six books to study. I like best to study geography.

Cassandra L. R.

Stone Quarry, Ont.

Dear Editor,—I have taken the 'Messenger' since May. I got it as a birthday present from my papa. I go to Sunday-school every Sunday morning, and in the afternoon I go to Sunday-school about a mile away and after that we have church. My parents belong to the Methodist Church. We walk a mile to school every day. I wonder if any little reader has the same birthday as mine, May 14.

F. O. S. (aged 12.)

Charteris, Que.

Dear Editor,—I am eight years old. I have a little sister six years old. She has blue eyes and curly hair. Our mamma went to heaven five years ago. We live with grandma and aunty. My aunty sent for the 'Messenger' for me last October. I like it very much. I like the children's letters and find-the-place almanac. Aunty helps me to find them on Sunday. Please send me some sample copies. I will try and get subscribers.

ALMA M.

St. George, N.B.

Dear Editor,—Mamma has taken the 'Northern Messenger' ever since she was a little girl, and she thinks it is a very nice paper. I have three sisters and four brothers. We go to Sunday-school every Sunday. Papa is the superintendent. My teacher's name is Miss Sceyle. My birthday is on the 11th of June.

ALICE (aged 11.)