

community. In the 8-1 and 8-2 grades we found 33 boys; only 2 had not smoked cigarettes. In the 7-1 and 7-2 53 boys; only 2 non-smokers. In the 6th and 5th grades, 59 boys, 9 non-smokers. In the 4th and 5-2 grades, 53 boys, 19 non-smokers. Of the total number of 198 boys, over 83 per cent smoked the cigarette.

Fort Wayne, Ind., Clay school, situated in best residence section of city: Grade 8a, 22 boys, 19 smoked, 3 non-smokers; 6a and 7th grades, 30 boys, 24 smoked, 6 non-smokers; 5th and 6b, 23 boys, 18 smoked 5 non-smokers; 3rd and 4th grades, 32 boys, 23 smoked, 9 non-smokers. Total, 117 boys, 84 smoked, 23 non-smokers, or over 71 per cent smoked cigarettes.

In Washington, D.C., of those who smoked the percentage in fourteen schools was as follows: Boys from 7 to 10 years of age, 25 per cent; from 10 to 12 years, 33 per cent; from 12 to 14 years, 50 per cent, and from 14 to 16 years or higher grades in grammar schools, 35 per cent. In the rooms below the seventh grade, or taking the scholars from 6 to 12 years of age, the boys and girls are about evenly divided, but in the higher grades, while the percentage lessens from 50 per cent in the intermediate grade, the number of boys lessens as well. There may be some argument that when a boy reaches 14 years of age he may be compelled to work. This will hold good in some instances, and yet the testimony of the teachers is that the greater part of these boys who do leave school are the lowest in standing, deportment and ability and are the most undesirable class, because of their low moral tone.

The most important contention against the cigarette is that the smoke is inhaled, and therefore more of the poisonous gases arising from the smoke and combustion are taken into the system than with pipe or cigar. The momentary exhilarating effects are immediate. The result is an appalling effect upon the nervous system. It first stimulates, then stupefies the nerves. Dr. L. Bremer, late physician at St. Vincent's Institution for the Insane at St. Louis, puts it strongly when he says:

"Basing my assertion on the experience gained in private practice and at the St. Vincent's Institution, I will broadly state that the boy who smokes at 7, will drink whiskey at 14, take to morphine at 25, and wind up with cocaine and the rest of the narcotics at 30."

Thank God that in the heart of every boy and girl there is some noble impulse which years of murdered conscience and ignoble deeds have not entirely destroyed. Dark as the picture is, the evil is being overcome. An army of three hundred thousand boys and girls have started the stampede by forming the American Anti-Cigarette League which seeks, by pledging the boys and girls against the use of the cigarette, by publication of facts concerning the evil, and by arousing public sentiment to kill the habit. Twenty years ago the annual production amounted to only 508,873,733 cigarettes. The year 1898 marked the high tide of production, amounting to 4,153,252,470, a total that is appalling even to one who is not fanatical in the matter of tobacco using. According to the tobacco journals the last year has seen '200,000 less cigarette users, or a greater moderation than before.'

During the past year the decrease has been at the rate of 2,192,390 per day, and reports show the greater decrease in the districts where the Anti-Cigarette League agitation has been the greatest. The Syracuse, N.Y., 'Herald' has this item: "The Anti-Cigarette crusade which has been waged in this city for the last three weeks appears to be bearing fruit, as the local tobacco dealers report a heavy falling off in the sale of cigarettes."

Perhaps we do not suffer so much from this evil habit in Canada as they suffer in the United States. They speak of the habit as decreasing; we fear it is on the increase with us. May we not learn from the sorrow of our neighbors, and grappling earnestly with the threatening evil, check its progress ere it secures a strong position among young Canadians. There must be persistent work done if we are to succeed in this reformatory work.

Our work first, last, and always is with the children, teaching the boys and girls to scorn the unmanly practice of smoking.

## Correspondence

Millsville, N.S.

Dear Editor,—This is to acknowledge receipt of the Bible given as premium for four subscriptions to the 'Northern Messenger.' It is a beautiful book, large print, and I am pleased and surprised with it. Many thanks and best wishes for your interesting and valuable papers. Wishing you much success, I remain, yours truly,  
SARAH HATCH.

Fitch Bay.

Dear Editor,—I have written to your paper once, and thought I would write again to thank you for the nice Bible you sent me for getting up the club. It is the nicest one I ever had, and I was very much pleased to get it. This is the second year I have taken the paper, and enjoy it very much. I go to school every day, my brother and sister go with me, and we all like to go very much. We also go to Sabbath-school every Sunday. My teacher's name is Mrs. C. R. Brown.

JENNIE P. D. (aged 13.)

Burnaby, Ont.

Dear Editor,—I take the 'Northern Messenger' and enjoy reading it very much. I would be lonely without it on a stormy day like this when we cannot get to school. I have one big brother and one little one, but no sisters. I am sorry about that, for I would like to have a little sister to play with. I have no pets, but three cats, Sampson, Bobs and Jack. They love to fight. I will give you some names of friends, hoping you will send them some of your nice papers.

FERN K.

Exploits, Nfld.

Dear Editor,—My sister takes the 'Messenger' and I like it very much. My youngest sister wrote to the 'Messenger' before, but we did not see it in print and her name was not among the names whose letters were not interesting enough. I suppose it got lost in the mail when it was going. We have been living in Exploits almost a year now; it will be a year in August. It is a pretty place, and there are a lot of high hills around us. We are having our holidays now, my eldest sister Lillie and I are learning Latin. Lillie has been learning French all the winter, but I haven't taken up French yet. I am taking music lessons from my brother and am in the 3rd book 'Halle's.' I got four new subscribers for the 'Messenger' and I got a 'Bagster Bible.' I thought it was a very nice one for so little trouble. Thank you, very much.

JANIE M. T. aged 13).

Meadow Bank,  
N. Georgetown, Que.

Dear Editor,—After seeing so many nice letters in your paper I thought I would like to write one, too. I get the 'Messenger' in my own name, and like to read it very much, especially the correspondence and Little Folks' Page. I am eleven years of age. I go to school and am in the Fourth Grade. My studies are writing, reading, spelling, British and Canadian history, grammar, geography, and arithmetic. I came out first in my grade, in a test examination, and third in the school, getting 1,337 marks out of a maximum of 1,500, my percent being 95 1-2. My prize was a nice volume of Tennyson's poems. Our teacher's name was Miss Cunningham, from Huntingdon. We liked her very well; she was very kind, and often would come out and play ball with us, and in stormy weather, when we could not go out, she would teach us new games at recess in the school. I go to the Presbyterian Church and Sunday-school. We have about sixty scholars, beside the Bible class. We live quite near the church, on the banks of the Chateauguay river, and have great fun skating and tobogganing in winter, and sailing in summer. I will now tell of a trip my sister and I took at Easter. We went by the New York Central line to Woodlands, a beautiful place on the St. Lawrence. We had a very pleasant

visit, as it was sugaring time, and our friends took us to their sugar bush; it was just a succession of sugar parties wherever we went, and on our way through Montreal we visited the 'Witness' office, and Mr. Dougall showed us the wooden Chinaman with his solemn face, who looked as if he were driving the whole machinery of the establishment, so you can see we had a very pleasant visit. I had almost forgotten to mention my pets. I have a little colt called Dan, he is quite tame and comes right up to me when I call him. I have also a dog called Carlo, a cat called Snow-flake, and seven little chickens, which I am going to sell for money to put in my missionary-box. My birthday is on Dec. 7, and I would like some little girl about my age to correspond with me.

LOTTIE A. ANDERSON,

[This is a very well-written letter. Thank you very much for the beautiful pressed pansies you enclosed.—Editor.]

Spring Bay, Ont.

Dear Editor,—I like the 'Messenger' so much that I would not give it up not for several times the price. It is a wonder to me how you get such good stories, and the effect they have on the mind is excellent. Some of the Sunday-school papers I have read are childish, and leave no good spiritual impression on the mind, but it is not so with the 'Messenger.' I am an old farmer, 73 last April, and am writing this without glasses on.

I love young people and enjoy seeing them happy, and it is a real happiness to do something that will give real joy and gladness to minds of our young friends, readers of the 'Messenger.' I read many of the letters in the paper, and think some of them very good, and would like to give a word of warning, as I have known some bitter disappointments in my time, because of untruthfulness in conduct as well as in words. I wish to say to the dear boys and girls, if you wish to be respected and trusted, always tell the truth and act your natural self so that every person can rely on you every time. I tell you it is worth more than gold. I know some persons whose word I can not trust, so, of course, there cannot be true respect for such persons, and I hope that none of the readers of the 'Messenger' will in future years be unworthy of confidence and respect.

EBENEZER TRACY.

EDITOR'S NOTE.

Letters written by the following people were either not quite interesting enough to publish, or were, in some cases, scribbled in pencil and untidily written:—

Ada M. Flinn, Mary A. Yurbrigg, Margaret Crawford, Hattie Mason, Clara Myrtle Lewis, Christina C. D., J. H. McK., Eddie C., Jessie B., Roy Burns, Minnie Cassidy, Irene C.

## Mail Bag.

Newmarket, Ont.

Messrs. John Dougall & Son—

Gentlemen,—I have been a subscriber of the 'Northern Messenger' for about seven years. I think it is an ideal paper for Sunday-schools. W. S. PERRIN.

Goldboro, N. S.

Gentlemen,—Your paper, the 'Northern Messenger,' is thought much of in our Sunday-school. Speaking for myself, I think it contains some of the finest stories I have ever read. They are bright and contain much information as well as amusement.

Yours respectfully,

M. L. GRIFFIN,  
Secy. S. S.

## Your Own Paper Free.

'Northern Messenger' subscribers may have their own subscription extended one year, free of charge, by remitting sixty cents for two new subscriptions.

Special Clubbing Offer, 'World Wide' and 'Northern Messenger,' \$1.00.