

Correspondence

Chester.

Dear Editor,—I cannot take your paper any longer, as father is dead, and I have no money. Father died last month. I would like to take it, but we have so much to look after now. We will try and take it next year if we have more money. I live on a large island; it is like three islands joined together. I have two brothers and three sisters. We miss father. My little brother has a little black lamb. I am the eldest of the family. I am fifteen years old. Well, I will close.

Good bye, dear Editor and boys and girls.
JENNIE M. & LOTTIE M.

Basswood, Man.

Dear Editor,—I was very much pleased to see my last letter in the 'Messenger.' I always look for the 'Messenger' the first thing after the mail comes home. I was very much surprised to see, while reading the letters in the 'Messenger,' that there was a letter written by a little girl whose birthday was on April 22, and was nine years old. That is exactly my age and birthday. The last time I wrote to this paper I was in the third book, but now I am in the fourth book. I like going to school very much. We have a lot of fun at recess and noontime. I have read a lot of books this winter, such as 'Teddy's Button,' 'Black Beauty,' 'Christie's Old Organ,' 'The Wreckers of Sable Island,' and three or four others. I think in the last one that Eric was a brave boy, or he would not have stayed with those wreckers. We have had a very bad winter here. But the spring is coming now. The snow is melting fast. I wish the Editors and members every success.

REBY P.

River Charlo, N.B.

Dear Editor,—I am a boy nine years old, and wish to send a few lines to you, as I do not see any letters in the 'Messenger' from Charlo. My brothers and sisters like the fine pieces which are every week in the 'Messenger,' and especially the Editor's letter. Charlo is a very pretty place, on the Bay Charleux. If you would visit us in the summer I am sure you would enjoy your visit. I and all the boys and girls would like to see the kind gentleman who sends us such fine things to read every week. We have a Presbyterian Church, which is well attended. The minister is the Rev. J. M. McL., whom we all like very much. You will be pleased to hear that in his good sermons he often speaks against the sale of liquor. We have a good Sunday-school. The superintendent is Mr. P. H. Our old minister, the Rev. T. N., although over eighty years of age, teaches the Bible Class, and gives short addresses at the close of the lesson. We have also a temperance hall. The members meet every week, and try to do all they can to improve themselves. Mr. John G. and Mr. John McL. have been members for many years, and have done a great deal for temperance. I would like to know if Lottie Bell T., of Agricola, N.W.T., still gets the 'Messenger.' I may write soon again. Your little friend,

D. LESLIE J.

Markdale, Ont.

Dear Editor,—I live near the town of Markdale, in the centre of the county of Grey. I am learning the printing trade at the 'Standard' office. I have been working there for over a year. The difficulty experienced by the C. P. R. on this branch during the past winter was enormous. Markdale was without a train for thirteen days. We have been taking the 'Messenger' for about eight years, about four years in my own name. I would not be without it. My father is a farmer.

R. W. E. McF. (aged 14).

Springfield, N.S.

Dear Editor,—I have taken the 'Northern Messenger' for four years. I have enjoyed it greatly. I like that story of 'Daph and Her Charge' very much. I am sorry it has finished so soon. I live on a hill overlooking a beautiful lake. Springfield is situated between two lakes, Lake Pleasant and Mill Lake. The first settlers who came out here had to endure many hardships. They settled in a dense forest with only a path leading to more settled places. In order to get their supplies they carried them on their backs, sometimes from a distance of forty to fifty miles. Amid all these labors, they were at last rewarded by seeing lots gradually cleared, and

new roads made. Mill Lake is a great favorite for tourists. In the summer they go out in boats fishing, and enjoying the beautiful scenery. In the winter lumbermen log across the lake. They do a great business. In the spring they bring down the logs in booms to the mill near the lake, where they are sawn into lumber and shipped to other countries. I live quite near the station, where the Halifax South-Western train passes twice a day. There is a new line of railway built from New Germany to Caledonia, and it is called Caledonia Branch Railway. This is the first time I have ever written to the 'Messenger.' My birthday is on April 21. Wishing you every success,

FLORA B. R.

Springfield, N.S.

Dear Editor,—I have taken the 'Northern Messenger' for four years, and think it is a very nice paper. I like to read the little letters, and I like to read the Editor's letter very much. I would love to see the Editor of such a good paper. I have one little sister named Sadie. My mamma's and papa's sisters all live in the United States. I have been there twice on a visit. My mamma and papa think perhaps they will go next autumn. I think I will not be able to go with them this time, as I will have to stay home and go to school. We have an organ, and I can play it a little. About eighty years ago this place was all forest, and now it is quite a thickly settled place. There were no roads fit for carriages, so they had to go on horseback. My grandpa was brought here on horseback when he was eight months old. I was twelve years old on Aug. 4 last. Wishing you and your paper every success,

ETHEL B. R.

Seamo, Man.

Dear Editor,—I wrote to the 'Northern Messenger' once before, and as I saw my letter in print, I decided to write again. We have had a very cold winter out here, and a lot of snow, but spring is here now. We have a Presbyterian Church up here, and also an English church. We live out in the country about fifty miles from a railway. There is a brass band up here. They gave a fine concert on March 3. My birthday is on April 3. I take the 'Messenger,' and think it is a splendid paper both for old and young.

FLORA B.

Minnedosa, Man.

Dear Editor,—I have not written to your paper for some time, but am always interested in it, and enjoy reading the letters, as well as the splendid tales it publishes. I thought Bessie C. A.'s letter was very interesting, especially the part about the books, as I am a great book-worm myself. My favorites are 'The Speckled Bird,' by Augusta E. Wilson; 'Nellie's Memories,' by Rosa Carey; and 'Lords of the North,' the author of which I forget. My birthday was on Feb. 4. I was thirteen years old. Next year I intend to have a letter party on my birthday. I think they are so nice. We take quite a few papers. My father took the 'Messenger' over thirty years ago, and thinks it a fine little paper. I go to school and am fortunate enough to have a fine teacher named Miss I. S. A. B. Now I will close, thanking you, Mr. Editor, for taking so much trouble over the correspondence page.

JEAN H.B.

Spring.

(By John Brown, a 'Messenger' reader.)

Spring has come with a cheering smile,
Old winter's banished for a long, long while,
The earth is roused from its winter's rest,
And the birds are ordered to build their nests.

The rain comes pattering on the pane,
Cleansing the earth from winter's stain,
Swelling the brooks as they hasten along,
Singing that same old springtime song.

The earth is bathed in the sun's bright ray,
As through the clear blue sky they stray,
Coaxing out leaves to shadow the nests
Of robins joyous, with crimson vests.

Buds are bursting on every side,
Calling bees from far and wide
To gather from their bosoms fair
The sweetest of all nature rare.

Then let us all with one accord,
Give thanks to the great unerring Lord,
And pray that each succeeding year
Shall bring to us the same good cheer.

HOUSEHOLD.

Hiring a Servant in Norway.

The 'servant question,' so much discussed in this country, does not exist as a problem in Norway. The 'Youth's Companion' describes the method practiced there of securing a servant for the mistress and a mistress for the servant.

In places like Bergen, Christiania, and other large cities, the municipal government takes entire charge of the matter. There is a central employment bureau under municipal control, and twice each year—once in summer and once in winter—dissatisfied servants can look out for a new master and mistress, and dissatisfied employers can seek to improve their service. The bureau is opened for one week, and the mistress who wants a maid can go to it, fill in a form stating her requirements and the wages she is willing to pay, and then leave all the rest to the bureau.

Her card is placed on file, and the position she offers is posted in a conspicuous place on a blackboard. Men and women servants in want of work examine these cards, and when they decide upon applying for any position, submit their recommendations to the bureau for examination. If these are satisfactory, the applicant receives a card to the prospective employer, available for one day only.

Should the lady hire the servant, she fills up the card with a list of the duties, wages, and terms of service agreed upon, and returns it to the bureau, where it is carefully filed for future reference if necessary.

If the applicant does not suit, the card is returned with 'not satisfactory,' which indicates that other applicants may be sent.

No matter how great the emergency, the new mistress cannot expect her maid for one week, for the girl must give her present employer that length of time to fill her place.

The law protects alike the employer and the employed. The rights of the maid include a comfortable room and bed, good and wholesome food, and prompt and regular payment of wages. In return, she must perform her duties faithfully, and be strictly honest, obedient, and respectful, during her term of service.

Should either party fail to comply with these requirements complaint must be made to a magistrate, who investigates the charges and renders a decision. The offended servant or the offended mistress cannot settle the difficulty by parting company. No matter how tired of the bargain mistress or maid may become, they cannot terminate it until the time agreed upon, except by permission of the magistrate. If a servant leaves without the knowledge of her mistress, she is subject to arrest, fine and imprisonment. On the other hand, the servant's wages are a first lien upon the property of the master or mistress.

The municipalities see that the law is strictly enforced with regard to servants, and themselves abide by it in their character of employers of labor.

The Blessing of Motherhood.

(Fannie Roper Feudge, in 'American Messenger'.)

What a dear, rollicking little fellow he was, our bright baby boy of two years! It was in the fourth year of our married life that he made his advent into the lovely home to which my husband had taken his girl-wife; and the little one found a hearty welcome, I assure you, from both his parents. I used to wonder afterwards how I had ever managed not to be lonely on the long days without the merry laugh and 'cute little ways' of my darling. For John's business kept him a good deal away from home, and it seemed so nice, even before the baby could answer back, to talk to him and wonder how much he could understand of my words. As he began to crow and clap his dear little dimpled hands whenever I came near him, my joy seemed too full to admit of any increase; but as the months sped apace and he could toddle all around, following in my footsteps from place to place, not only my heart but all the house seemed full of sunshine, and the whole world did not contain a prouder or happier mother than I.

My little man was always in mischief, of course, as is every bright, healthy child of his age—always experimenting on his own