

against the cigarette habit among minors in the United States, but the national legislature at Washington has not, we believe, interested itself in the matter. Here is where the imperial diet of Japan is in advance of the congress of the United States. The smoking habit in Japan has become very general, even the small boys of the street being addicted to the habit of cigarette smoking. Many of the best citizens of the empire are becoming greatly exercised and alarmed at the growing habit. The advocates of reform have been agitating the matter and calling attention to the danger involved, until parents and the people are awakening to the gravity of the situation. With this progressive people to be aroused is to act, and in this instance there is acting at a point where action can be most effective. The consequence has been that an influential member, in early December, introduced a bill in the lower house of the imperial diet forbidding the smoking of tobacco by persons under eighteen years of age, imposing a fine not only upon offenders, but upon those selling to such persons. After careful consideration of the bill by the committee to which it had been referred, it was favorably reported to the house, substituting twenty for eighteen years. Later the bill was passed by the lower house, all the leading men being in favor of it. The action of the lower house will undoubtedly be concurred in and confirmed by the house of peers.—Methodist Recorder.

A Barrel of Whiskey.

A drayman rolled forth from his cart to the street.

A red-headed barrel, well bound and complete;

And on it red letters, like forked tongues of flame,

Emblazoned the grade, number, quality, fame,

Of this world-renowned whiskey from somebody's still

Who arrested the grain on the way to the mill.

So there stood the barrel, delivered, but I could see that a shadow was hovering nigh,—

A sulphurous shadow, that grew, as I gazed, To the form of Mephisto. Though sorely amazed,

I ventured to question this imp of the realm Where Vice is the pilot, with Crime at the helm,

And asked him politely his mission to name, And if he was licensed to retail the same Identical barrel of whiskey which he Was fondly surveying with demoniac glee.

'Oh, I never handle the stuff,' he replied, 'My partners mortal are trusty and tried; Mayhap, peradventure you might wish to look,

At the invoice complete—I will read from this book,

You will find that this barrel contains something more

Than forty-two gallons of whiskey galore.' And ere I could slip but another word in,

He checked it off gayly, his cargo of sin,—

A barrel of headaches, of heartaches, of woes;

A barrel of curses, a barrel of blows!

A barrel of tears from a world-weary wife;

A barrel of sorrow, a barrel of strife;

A barrel of all-unavailing regret;

A barrel of cares and a barrel of debt;

A barrel of crime and a barrel of pain;

A barrel of hopes ever blasted and vain;

A barrel of falsehood, a barrel of cries;

That fall from the maniac's lips as he dies;

A barrel of poison—of this nearly full;

A barrel of poverty, ruin and blight;

A barrel of terrors that grow with the night;

A barrel of hunger, a barrel of groans;

A barrel of orphans' most pitiful moans;

A barrel of serpents that hiss as they pass From the bead on the liquor that glows in the glass;

My barrel! my treasure! I bid thee farewell.

Sow ye the foul seed, I will reap it in hell!

—Wisconsin Prohibitionist.

Beer guzzled down, as it is by many workmen, is nothing better than brown ruin. Dull, droning blockheads sit on the ale bench and wash out what little sense they ever had. —C. H. Spurgeon, D.D.

Correspondence

A Letter For You.

Dear Boys and Girls,—It is a long time since I have written to you, but I have thought of you very often and wished for you all happiness. Thank you all for your letters and for your love and good wishes to the 'Messenger.' Please do not think that your letters are not appreciated; if they do not get into print it is because we have not room to print them all, not because we are not glad to get them. You would not like the 'Messenger' to be all made up of letters, would you?

We want to thank each one of you who have contributed to the Indian Famine Fund. Your money has gone straight to India to be used by the missionaries for the saving of many lives, we trust. India needs your prayers. The rain has begun to fall now, and the people are looking for better times, but they need all the more help now in the months that must pass before harvest, for without the help of Christians this would be the darkest time. This is a most important time to send help to them, for if we help keep them alive until harvest then they can help themselves. Pray that God will touch the hearts of his children in this land that they may mercifully send money to buy food for those starving creatures who are our brothers and sisters. Pray for the missionaries, too. Every day they have to see these hundreds of thin, starving people, to hear their piteous cries for bread, and to know that numbers are dying at their very doors. Pray that our Father will protect them from illness and from over work and worry in the midst of their dreadful surroundings. Pray that those who receive the bread that our money buys for them may also receive Jesus, the Bread of Life.

Miss Todd has written from India thanking those who sent papers to her. She has not time to write to each one separately, but sends her love and thanks for kind wishes and promises of prayer. She does not wish for any more papers, as she has all she can possibly use now. We hope to publish a letter from Miss Todd in a few weeks.

China needs your prayers. All the missionaries and native Christians there are in great danger. The Boxers, a great society of cruel, wicked men, are making war in China on everything that is right and good. Already many of the Chinese who have become Christians, and even some of the white missionaries, have been cruelly slain. But God is able to protect his children, even though the heathen rage and threaten. Ask the Lord Jesus to protect the missionaries and other Christians there, and to make them realize that God is their refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. (Ps. xlv.) Ask him that all this trouble may be used to make China more open to the Gospel, and to make the Chinese anxious to receive the Lord Jesus into their lives. The only place of safety is in God.

South Africa needs your prayers. I know that you have been praying for the brave soldiers these many months, but the great thing about prayer is to pray faithfully until you get the answer, as did the woman of whom we learn in our Sabbath-school lesson this week. Never forget to pray for your own home and friends and for your country.

Your loving friend,
THE CORRESPONDENCE EDITOR.

Poof Hood Island, C.B.

Dear Editor,—I live on an island about

three miles long and one mile broad. It is situated about a mile from the mainland. There are fourteen families here, making a population of one hundred. We have a ferry on each side. We have a church, school-house, post-office, factory and two dry goods stores. The principal industries are farming and fishing. I have two brothers and one sister. We take the 'Messenger.' We could not do without it now.

MAUD B. S. (Aged 9.)

Moosjaw.

Dear Editor,—I live on the prairie. I have never seen apples grow. I take the 'Messenger' and love to read the correspondence. I go to school in the summer. I have a little sister; her name is Marguerite. She is five years old. She has a pet cat and I have a pony. I call it 'Teda.'

ERLE H. (Aged 8.)

Letters Received.

We are pleased to acknowledge letters from those whose names appear below. We are sorry to say that some of these letters got mislaid in the early spring, and therefore were not properly acknowledged at the time of their receipt. Thank you all for your kind words and good wishes for the 'Messenger.'

Katie M. L., Frank H. B., Nellie I. Gate, Walter Ruddy, Milton P., Pearl Kerr, Jennie Leslie, Alice Dewar, James Milne, Bessie J. L., Annie, Neville C., Frank Seebach, Jeannie A., Annie Thompson, James Doffie, Edith Biggar, T. J. Mackey, Helen I. L., Hazel G. G., Archie G. G., M. Gertie G., Lettie M. L., Della, George F., George D. McL., John Dewar, Ralph Grimmon, R. P. W., Fred. R. Munro, M. H. Munro, Bennie Hughes, J. H. S., Bruce M., W. G. F., H. Williamson, Maggie Teel, Anna E. S., Alice W., Jessie L., Donald G., Ethel May Humphrey, Lillian G., May Young, Eva Gaskerson, Tillie S., M. Youre, Edith Lee, Manly Weller, Goldie Bailey, Ethel Ward, Neil G. Rae, Nancy, Carrie, Edd P., Lizzie Ann, Michael M., Olive L., Robert W. M., Bessie Hanna, Gertrude Pettit, Jessie Hoose, Winifred Argue, Fred P. Adams, Gracie Brown, Russel B., Percy M., Roselyn M., Kathleen, Florence E. M., Lizzie, Lily Laulor, J. C. Macleod, George L. Snow, W. D. McLean, Della, Mary Rae, Samuel Buchanan, Kathleen Wilson, W. S. G., Nellie, Etta Griffin, Thomas J. A., Winnie, Ray, Eldon, Edna, Orville, Robbie Leard, Russell K., Harry M. F., Lee Estey, Ethel M., George M. B., Meda H., May Campbell, P. M. McLennan, Alma S. C., Mary B., K. E. S., Elean Taylor, Effie H. H., Robert E., Claude M., Winnie Stuart, Irene May, Leslie S., Pear Gillard, Lila E., Ethel C. L., Nellie, Frank W. G., Fannie A. P., Gertrude M. P., Nellie McL., Florence Parker, Gladys Osborne, Winnie Graham, Milo Ely, Mabel Clark, Florence Clark, Ina B., T. H., W. G. Murray, Ernest W. Cathcart, Dell Ewen, Bert Ewen, Georgina E. Rusk, John Armstrong, Octavia Dimock, Jessie O. Dimock, Dorothy C. Peck, Earl, John W. F., Violet Merrick, M. B., Marguerite Whitman, Inez L. Whitman, John Calvin M., Cora M. Short, Ina May Gordon, Nellie Rogers, Frank Conley, N. Lewis, Charlie Wood, Eliza Clock, Charles E. Griffin, Sadie R. Neumeyer, Maggie Creighton, H. E., Reggie W. Perrin, A. M., Thomas S., Hester E. Gelz, Bessie Caswall, May, Lila Yardley, Morton D., Vermont Farmer Boy, Belle S. W., Bella L. H., Edna W., John T. Bell, Avon, McKelvey, Rosilla L., Jimmie Harnish, Alonzo Johnson, Robbie Cumberland, N. M. S., E. A. W., Rosella Perry, Lena Ross, May, Alex. McEwen, Greta G. Gasikin, Kate Bogart, Harry M. A. Kerley, Winnie Brown, Gertrude M. Tully, C. Roy McEwan, Freddie Sharpin, Ada M. Beer, Ethel C. L., Wm. Howard D., Ralph H., Maggie Rose, Rose Collin, Daisy Collie, Laura Stillwell, Elva M. Crossman, Pearl L. Nattress, Ezra Snow, Lavena Wark, Eva J. F., Josie Macdonald, Lily Dooks, Vera T., Viola M. P.

The 'Messenger' Honor Roll of Bible Searchers.

R. P. W., Hester Helena, Ethel Lott, George M. Murton, Fred. J. Murton, Roy A. Martyn, Isaac B. Peers, Hedley M. Peers, John A. Boneham, Ethel M., Oscar Martyn, Eva T. Farnell, Eliza Clock, Stella and Versa Whitlock, H. Stuart Macartney, Stella C., Ruth MacLean, Winnie Brown, Octavia Dimock, Jessie C. Dimock.