

## Correspondence

Poona.

My Dear Fellow-students in Canada,—I am going to tell you something about my school and myself. I attend the Victoria High School, which is opposite the telegraph office. It is situated on a public road, and is a large compound. It has two storeys, the bottom devoted to young children from standards I. to IV., and the upper to bigger ones, from standards V. to IX. We are taught English, French, history, arithmetic, drawing, plain needlework, fancy work, drill, and many other things. The little children have kindergarten, and there are different teachers for different subjects. Our school hours are from 10 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. We have recess from 1 a.m. to 2 p.m. Before commencing school we have to sing a hymn, and read a few verses out of the Bible. After that we have our Scripture lesson, which lasts for three quarters of an hour. After that we go to our classes. We have lectures every Friday. Besides being a day school, there is another building in the Compound, which is devoted to boarders. This building also consists of two large storeys. The lower storey is devoted to a large dining-room, dressing rooms, bath-rooms, and the Principal's rooms. The upper storey is devoted to bedrooms. Close to this building, in the same compound, there is a large house, where the Principal and her children stay. There are also rooms for the teachers. In front of the house there is a large garden, with flowers such as violets, roses, jessamines, sunflowers, lilies, pansies, etc. I am a Jewess, and am in the 7th standard. I attend the Sewer's Band every Tuesday, from 5.30 to 6.30 p.m. This band consists of children, who sew clothes for the poor. The girls make jackets, skirts, bandages, etc. The boys are taught to paint pictures, carve wood, carpentering, etc. We Jewish pupils have service on Saturdays from 7 to 9 a.m. and from 7 to 8 p.m. I went up for my First Grade drawing exams, in September, and was successful. I have two sisters and six brothers; four of the elder ones attend school. I am very fond of reading, and I have read so many books that I can only give you the names of a few, which are: 'The Wide, Wide World,' 'Home and School,' 'What Katy did Next,' 'Little Fishers and their Nets,' 'Little Women,' 'Queechy,' 'The Cloister and the Hearth,' 'Odd,' 'Teddy's Button,' 'A Puzzling Pair,' 'Beulah,' 'A Mountain Daisy,' 'The end of a Coil,' 'Daisy,' 'Esther Reid yet Speaking,' a few of the 'Elsie' series, and many others.

FLORENCE EZEKIEL (age 13).

[This letter comes all the way from India, and it is interesting to see how much the same life is for a little girl there as it is in Canada.—Ed.]

B. R., Ont.

Dear Editor,—I go to school every day, and am in the second book. I have two sisters, and one brother. I am the youngest. I have a pet hen, and call her Biddy. We live two miles away from the school, and so have a long way to walk. My brother has a pet sheep, he calls her Daisy. I think I can guess some of the riddles. The left side of a round plum pudding is the side that is not eaten. Something I got from my mother, all full of holes, and none of them through, is a thimble.

Harry Matthews' riddle:

'The beginning of Eternity  
The end of time and space,  
The beginning of every end  
And the end of every race'

is the letter E.

I will send a riddle, too:—

A marble wall as white as milk,  
Lined with a skin as soft as silk,  
Within the skin a crystal clear  
Then a gold apple does appear.

E. A. P. (aged 8.)

W. S., N.M.

Dear Editor,—I am a little boy nine years of age. I have a little brother eight years of age. I go to school in a big brick school-house. I am in the third grade, and my brother is in the second grade. Mamma

has some chickens and three ducks. Papa is hauling coal. We have five pet rabbits. I go to Sunday school. My Sunday school teacher gives me the 'Messenger.'

FRANK WILLIAMS.

H., N.S.

Dear Editor,—I have not been taking the 'Messenger' very long, but like it very much. I got it as a present. I have a little baby brother, which was born on the 1st of October last year. I have one sister and four brothers. I was eleven on December 15th.

SADIE I. BRYSON.

P. A., Sask.

Dear Editor,—I have three brothers, but no sisters. I have three pets, two dogs and a cat. The name of one of our dog's is Jack. He is a water-spaniel. The other's name is Cover. He is a wire-haired fox terrier. I like reading very much. I have read a great many books. I go to school, and like my teacher very much.

MYRTLE K.

C. B., N.S.

Dear Editor,—I received the 'Maple Leaf' brooch you sent me, and am very much pleased with it. I have read quite a few nice story books. I enjoy reading 'Saint Cecilia of the Court,' and think it is a very nice story. I am going to school, and there are three in my class. They are all girls. I wish the 'Northern Messenger' every success.

S. T. H.

N. H., Manchester, Eng.

Dear Editor,—I am a little girl living in England, but I thought you would like a letter from me, although I am English. Your paper was made known to me, by a kind auntie in Canada, and I think it is very interesting, so I will wish you and it every success.

I go to school regularly, for it is just facing our house, and we have no severe weather to prevent children attending, as in Canada.

We have just been promoted into higher standards, or classes.

I am now in standard six, and we have got such a nice teacher. His name is Mr. G. I have been in his class just a week, and have only one bad mark. Your correspondents of the 'Messenger' are very fond of reading, I see. We have got the 'Elsie' and 'Mildred' books in England. I like reading exceedingly, and possess some of them. Here are some of our English riddles:—

What goes up white and comes down yellow?

What is the difference between an engine-driver and a school-master?

ELSIE HOLDER.

(We are very glad to hear from you, Elsie, not 'although,' but 'because,' you are English.—Ed.)

R., Sask.

Dear Editor,—I am a little girl twelve years old, and live on a farm four miles from the town of R. I have four brothers and two sisters. For pets we have one pup, two little kittens, and two pigeons. There is a lovely lake on our farm. We have a boat on it, and all enjoy rowing in the boat very much. We moved from the East last spring. I went to school there, but cannot go now as school is closed. Our farm is a very pretty place in summer. There are a great number of trees in our garden.

MYRTLE B. LUNN.

D., Nebr.

Dear Editor,—I will be fourteen years old the 29th of August. I live on a farm of 160 acres. We have four horses, fourteen head of cattle, two dogs, one cat, and fifteen hogs. I think I can answer R. Hamilton's question, 'Why is a horse like a stick of candy?' The more you lick it the faster it goes. I think Harry E. Matthews' riddle is the letter E. I will close with a riddle: 'Why is a four quart measure like a side saddle.'

ERNEST AUSTIN.

D., Nebr.

Dear Editor,—I think the pin you sent me was very pretty, and thank you for it very much. Our school begins Monday, Sept. 3. Our teacher is Miss V. I will send

a riddle: What is the difference between Uncle Sam and an old maid, and a rooster?  
JOSEPHINE AUSTIN.

B., Ont.

Dear Editor,—I have never written to the 'Messenger' before, so I thought I would write and thank you for the Maple Leaf brooch you sent to me. I think it is very nice. I have two little brothers; their names are John and Archie. We have thirteen little calves and two little colts. I live half a mile from school, and am in the senior third book.

MYRTLE YOUNG (aged 9.)

K., N. Y.

Dear Editor,—I have had a good time during the vacation, working a little and playing a good deal. My pa says I can take the 'Messenger' as long as you put in such good things as, 'Not Ashamed,' 'How a boy can be a Gentleman,' 'The Heavenly Father, and Prodigal Son,' and 'A Boy's Duty.'

WARREN H. THOMPSON.

### MORE LETTERS.

Frank Maclean writes from M. T., N.S., and sends a riddle, but it has already been asked. Write and tell about those fifty-eight chickens you have for pets, Frank, and not every boy is lucky enough to have a black colt of his own to write about.

Florence Buell, O., Sask., sends in these two riddles: 1. Why is a hotel waiter like a racehorse? 2. Where was Humboldt going when he was thirty-nine years old?

Edwina Elliott, C., N.S., answers Alfred J. Duke's problem, and says she has not missed Sunday School once since Easter. Keep up the school for the year, Edwina.

Janet Wolfrum, C., Ont., is another one to send in the answer to Warren W. B.'s riddle correctly. She also suggests a good text for the letter L in Eva Nichols' incomplete alphabet—'Little children love one another'—and asks what chapter in the Bible contains four verses all alike.

Violet Smith, M., Que., writes about a drawing on which she forgot to write her name. That one is lost, Violet, but you sent us a very pretty drawing of Robin Redbreast, that found a well deserved place.

Here is a good Bible riddle that interested the editor, and the best of it is you can look it up just as soon as you give in that you can't guess it.

'It is a word I like to hear,  
Though not of English birth;  
A gentle word that fitly falls  
From hapless sons of earth.  
From patient souls that seek and love  
The help that cometh from above.  
No plainer words, no simpler words  
To baby lips belong  
For turn this way or turn it that,  
You cannot turn it wrong,  
And yet the holiest lips were heard  
To utter first this simple word,  
But, oh! how much they mean,  
They touch on earth, they soar to heaven.  
They span the grief between,  
And when its mission here is o'er  
This word shall reach the furthest shore.'

—See Mark xiv., 36.

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