

THE OLD FAMILY PAPER.

BY ALICE A. BARBER.

A mining-camp in the West, which one it does not matter, for there are a hundred others very like this one. It seemed given over to the powers of evil. There was no school, and no minister of the gospel had ever set his foot in the camp; it was doubtful if the voice of prayer had ever been heard. Sunday was a day set apart for extra fighting and drinking. There was not one temperance man in the place. Wait. A little farther up the mountain-side one miner lived alone. He was unlike all the other miners. He never drank when he came into camp; in short, he had no part in all the wickedness of the place. He was held in no little awe by the other campers, for he was the best shot in the place, and several quarrelsome fellows knew by experience that his powerful arm was a trained arm as well. That was why he was known in the camp as "The Justice of the Peace." The camp suddenly became more quiet as the "Justice's" tall figure towered above the crowd as they waited for their mail.

One Saturday afternoon the stage-driver left an unusually large mail at the camp. Most of it proved to be for the Justice. He sat down on a log and read his letters and examined several bundles of newspapers. The campers looked on and wondered what would come next. That number of papers never had been seen at the camp before at any one time. Just as the sun was sinking out of sight the Justice gathered up his papers, and then, standing on the log, placed one hand to his mouth and gave a call painfully like an Indian war-whoop. The campers crowded around. They knew the Justice was about to make a speech.

He began: "Ladies and gentlemen, them that don't keep still and listen to what I have to say must remember that I will settle with 'em as soon as I have time. Seeing that we didn't have no extra amount of good reading in this camp, I wrote to some friends back in God's country and asked 'em to send me some of their second-hand papers. Here they are, and they hain't been read till the ink is faded yet. Anybody as has any choice better speak out." And the Justice held up a *Congregationalist*, a *Christian Advocate*, a *Herald* and *Presbyter*, an *Examiner* and *Chronicle* and several other papers.

"There's an *Advocate*. That's my paper; we took that to home!" cried an old miner who was noted for abilities of various kinds. He retired to a neighboring rock, taking his *Advocate* with him. He did not get drunk that night nor the next day, nor the next.

"Got an *American Messenger*? We always took that," said a woman's voice. "Yes, lots of *Messengers*," and the Justice passed one over. "Who else took the *American Messenger*. Whose mother took it?"

There was a fight about to begin on the edge of the crowd; but the disputants paused and both held up their hands for a *Messenger*. The home paper settled it.

"My wife wants a *Herald* and *Presbyter*; her folks always took it," said some one else.

Darkness had come on before every camper had received the old home paper and gone away to find a light whereby to read. The Justice walked through the camp. He paused in front of one saloon. Several men were gathered there reading religious papers. The proprietor leaned on the bar reading the *Child's Paper*. The picture on the front page was like his little boy who, in beauty and innocence, went to sleep under Eastern violets. In another saloon the gaily colored picture "Apples of Gold" was nailed up behind the bar. The Justice passed before another drinking-place and watched while a motto, covering nearly a page of a large paper, was tacked to the wall. He read:

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Then the Justice went out into the darkness of that mountain-side, knelt down, and asked God to make those second-hand papers a lasting good to that mining-camp.

There are tons of good papers lying mouldy and dusty in Eastern homes that might be the means, under God, of saving

many a Western town if they could be sent to needy places. Find out where they are most needed. Send them regularly. God's blessing will go with your papers and it will remain with you.—*American Messenger*.

"CHRIST BEFORE PILATE."

Orders for this picture are coming in at the rate of between two and three hundred daily. It is much appreciated by those who have received it. One would be an ornament to every house. Subscribers of the *Messenger* can get a copy by sending 25 cents to the publishers of this paper, in addition to their subscription. If your subscription has already been sent, and you want the picture send 25 cents for the picture and it will be forwarded to you.

ALL CANADA'S SCHOOLS

ARE INVITED TO JOIN IN A NATIONAL COMPETITION.

Stories of adventure, tales of success through greatest obstacles, of gallant endeavors which have resulted in failure equally honorable abound in this country. Farms and fortunes were not hewn out of the Canadian forests without the exercise of a heroism which must command attention and admiration wherever known. The old men and women who are telling these stories now to their children and grand-children are rapidly passing away; even their sons and daughters will soon leave us. No good Canadian story should be allowed to pass into oblivion. There are hundreds of them of sufficient interest to light the fire of genius. The *Witness* wants to gather them. It is not going to ask the old men and women who were actors in these scenes for them. No one who becomes a hero by simply doing his duty, knows he has done anything out of the way. Besides these people are too modest to write to the newspapers about what they have done, and many of their sons in the prime of life have been too busy. The flame of Canadian patriotism naturally burns brighter as a purely Canadian generation arises to take the place of those who called another land home. We therefore set the task of recounting their country's glories and collecting the material for her history and poetry to the young people of the schools. It will do them good to dwell on the courage, the self-denial and the devotion manifested by those who turned this Canada of ours from an unbroken forest into the fair cultivated land that it is. They will be taught a lesson of thankfulness that they now enjoy what has been earned with so much pain and labor. Their youthful energies, also, will stimulate the older ones to greater thought and efforts of remembrance than they would expect without this incentive. It is not necessary that the events recorded should be of the heroic order. Any good story, whether of trouble or of fun; any good description of pioneer life and surroundings, may be the groundwork of the tale which is to take the prize. We ask a careful perusal by every one who receives this paper of the plan here proposed.

There are in Canada and Newfoundland counties as follows:—New Brunswick, 15; Prince Edward Island, 3; Nova Scotia, 18; Quebec, 60; Ontario (with districts), 48; Manitoba, 26; British Columbia (electoral divisions), 5; and counted as one, each, Alberta, Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, and Keewatin, 4, and Newfoundland 2-180. There are also the cities of Charlottetown, St. John's (Nfld.), Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa, Toronto, Brantford, St. Catharines, Belleville, Guelph, Montreal, Hull, Sherbrooke (town and city), Quebec, Three Rivers, St. Hyacinthe, Halifax, St. John, Portland, Fredericton, Winnipeg, and Victoria, 23, making a grand total of 204.

We offer to the school children of each county or city mentioned as a prize, "Macaulay's History of England," in five volumes, strongly and neatly bound in cloth, for the best true story of adventure or tale descriptive of pioneer life, the scene of which is laid in the county or city in which the narrator resides. Thus if all the counties compete, 204 copies of Macaulay's "History of England" will be given as prizes for the best tales of as many divisions of the country, as specified below.

But this is not all. The 204 stories which have won what we, for shortness, shall call the "Witness County Prizes," will be submitted to a commission in each province which will decide which of the number is considered the best, and award a "Witness Provincial Prize," which will be a complete set of Parkman's works, ten volumes in all, worth \$15. For this prize, Alberta, Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, and Keewatin, will be grouped with Manitoba.

These eight essays, which have been thus selected, will be then referred to some high authority and that which will be adjudged the best will receive a further prize of a Remington No. 2 Typewriter, with four drawer desk and cover which sells for \$125. This we will call the "Witness Dominion Prize."

Thus, the fortunate winner of the "Dominion Prize," will win the Typewriter, by which letters and correspondence are printed, worth \$125; the winners of the "Provincial Prizes," a set of Francis Parkman's works, value \$16, and the winners of the "County Prize," "Macaulay's History of England" in five volumes, value \$5. There will, therefore, be, one Dominion prize, eight Provincial prizes 204 County prizes.

In addition, to render the interest more general, a copy of the *Northern Messenger* will be sent for a year to the writer of the best story from each school, as decided by the teacher, but the teacher's judgment will not necessarily be followed by the judges of the county prizes. Further, every competitor will receive a card showing that he or she had a part in this great Dominion competition.

As it is almost impossible that any scholar would be able to obtain the necessary informa-

tion without assistance the question of the amount of assistance which might be given would become a vexatious one. To simplify the matter, each competitor will be permitted to get all the assistance possible from any source whatever. But the story must be in the handwriting of the competitor, and the fact that the writer is a regular pupil of the school must be certified to by the head teacher thereof.

Each story must be written on foolscap paper, on one side only, and must not exceed 2,000 words. The sheets must be folded in four, that is one-quarter the size of the page, and endorsed on the back, as follows:

DOMINION PRIZE COMPETITION.	
(Name of Story.)	
By	
(Nom de Plume.)	
(Name and Number of School.)	
(County.)	
(Province.)	
(Signature and Address of Teacher.)	

Enclosed with the manuscript should be a letter in a sealed envelope containing the name of the writer, his or her *nom de plume*, which is attached to the story, the name and address of the school, and the teacher's certificate that the essay referred to is written by the scholar who is a member of the school.

The last day for the mailing of these essays will be February 28th and the prizes will be awarded as soon after as possible, so as to be given at the school closing.

The essays should be sent in as soon as ready, to facilitate the work of selection.

The judges of the county and province prizes will be selected by the superintendents of education in each province if they should consent, or if not by the publishers of the *Witness*, and will be announced as soon as selected. The judge of the Dominion prize sought for has not yet had time to reply to the application to perform this duty, but will be one in whom every competitor has confidence.

RECAPITULATION.

ONE Dominion Prize—a Remington No. 2 Typewriter, with cover and four drawer desk.

EIGHT Province Prizes—one set of Parkman's works.

TWO HUNDRED AND FOUR County Prizes, Macaulay's History of England, in five volumes, —as follows:

IN NEWFOUNDLAND, one each for the city of St. John's, the Peninsula of Avalon and the remaining portion of the Island—3.

IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, one each for Prince, Queen and King's Counties, and the City of Charlottetown.—4.

IN NOVA SCOTIA, one each for the counties of Guysborough, Halifax, Lunenburg, Queen's, Shelburne, Yarmouth, Digby, Annapolis, King's, Hants, Cumberland, Colchester, Pictou, Antigonish, Inverness, Victoria, Cape Breton, Richmond and the City of Halifax.—19.

IN NEW BRUNSWICK, one each for the counties of Restigouche, Gloucester, Northumberland, Kent, Westmoreland, Albert, St. John, Charlotte, King's, Queen's, Sunbury, York, Carleton, Victoria, Madawaska, and the cities of St. John, Portland and Fredericton.—18.

IN QUEBEC, one each for the counties of Pontiac, Ottawa, Argenteuil, Two Mountains, Veillon, Soulanges, Jacques Cartier, Hochelaga, Laval, Terrebonne, L'Assomption, Montcalm, Joliette, Berthier, Maskinonge, St. Maurice, Champlain, Portneuf, Quebec, Montmorency, Charlevoix, Chicoutimi, Saguenay, Huntingdon, Beauharnois, Chateauguay, Laprairie, Napierville, St. Johns, Chambly, Vercheres, Richelieu, Yamaska, St. Hyacinthe, Veigot, Rouville, Iberville, Nicolet, Lotbiniere, Levis, Dorchester, Bellechasse, Montmagny, L'Islet, Kamouraska, Temiscouata, Rimouski, Bonaventure, Gaspé, Arthabaska, Megantic, Beauce, Drummond, Richmond, Wolfe, Shefford, Compton, Missisquoi, Bromé, Stanstead, and the town and City of Sherbrooke, and the cities of Quebec, Montreal, Hull, St. Hyacinthe, and Three Rivers.—66.

IN ONTARIO, one each for the Counties of Simcoe, Grey, Bruce, Huron, Lambton, Essex, Kent, Elgin, Norfolk, Haldimand, Welland, Lincoln, Wentworth, Halton, Peel, York, Ontario, Durham, Northumberland, Prince Edward, Hastings, Lennox, Addington, Frontenac, Leeds, Grenville, Dundas, Stormont, Glengarry, Prescott, Russell, Carleton, Lanark, Renfrew, Middlesex, Oxford, Brant, Perth, Waterloo, Wellington, Victoria, Peterborough, Haliburton; the Districts of Muskoka, Parry Sound, Nipissing, Algoma, and Thunder Bay, and the cities of Ottawa, Toronto, Hamilton, St. Catharines, Brantford, London, Guelph, Kingston, and Belleville.—57.

ONE for the ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF KEEWATIN.

IN MANITOBA, one each for the counties of Marquette, Lacombe, Proulx, Morris, Manchester, Hamilton, Dufferin, Portage la Prairie, Selkirk, Plessis, Rock Lake, Lorne, Norfolk, Lisgar, Westbourne, Beautiful Plain, Riding Mountain, Dauphin, Minnedosa, Shoal Lake, Duck Mountain, Russell, Dennis, Brandon, Turtle Mountain, Souris River, and the City of Winnipeg.—27.

ONE for the TERRITORY OF ALBERTA.

ONE for the TERRITORY OF ASSINIBOIA.

ONE for the TERRITORY OF SASKATCHEWAN.

IN BRITISH COLUMBIA, one each for the electoral divisions of Cariboo and Lilloet, New Westminster, Vancouver, Victoria, Yale and Kootenay and the city of Victoria.—6.

THE PRIZES.

1 Dominion prize, price.....	\$ 125
8 Province prizes, at \$15.....	120
204 County prizes, at \$5.....	1,020
	\$1,265

We hope to receive the assistance of teachers, and trustees and all interested to make this competition most useful and interesting. Address all correspondence and requests for fuller information to

JOHN DOUGALL & SON,
MONTREAL, QUE.

(Dominion Competition.)

Question Corner.

PRIZE BIBLE QUESTIONS.

The answers to the Prize Bible Questions of last year poured in at such a rate that the large drawer cleared to hold them proved all too small and a second one had to be appropriated. This, with our usual press of Christmas work, is the reason we are not able to announce the results of the competition in this number. All being well, however, we hope to do so in our next.

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The following are the NEW CLUB RATES for the MESSENGER, which are considerably reduced:

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50 " " ".....	10 50
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"CHRIST BEFORE PILATE."

"A perfect copy of a picture which was sold by the artist for \$120,000 cash, a single copy being sent to any subscriber to the *Daily or Weekly Witness and Messenger* for 25 cents in addition to the subscription prices.

Send for sample copies of the papers and subscribe for them.

JOHN DOUGALL & SON,
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