



BISHOP'S COLLEGE GRAMMAR SCHOOL, LENNOXVILLE, P.Q.



TORONTO, 18th December, 1891.



BEFORE this letter reaches my readers Christmas Day, with its benedictions and congratulations, will be past. To many of us—how many, indeed—it will be an occasion of the revival of sad reminiscences; the beloved face is absent, the familiar step is heard no more, and tears

of softened or keen regret suffuse our eyes. But the little ones are merry; to them, for months, Christmas has held out sweet promises of pleasure. And why should they be defrauded of their rights? Is not this the children's feast—the birthday of the Christ child, for whose sake—the Babe of Bethlehem's sake—and for the sake of the Man, Christ Jesus, who "took the little ones up in His arms and blessed them," let us lay aside our own sombre thoughts and devote ourselves to the service of the children; let us make the little ones happy and the angel of happiness will not overlook us. LOVE begets LOVE, and Christmas is the Festival of Love.

May all my readers, whom I am to have the pleasure of addressing only this once more, know to the full what is meant by a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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The air is full of election rumours. Mayor, aldermen and school trustees are to be voted for afresh, and some new interests are involved in the result. The Sunday street car agitation, renewed by the *World*, has called forth some extraordinary expressions of opinion from the aldermen, more than one or two saying in effect that "the

people," whose votes placed these gentlemen in office, were not competent to give a safe vote upon this question of morals. Why "the people" are disqualified not one dared to put into so many words, but certainly if "the people" are ordinarily intelligent, moral, and fit to vote for representatives, in whose care the whole management of the city, from finance to sanitation, is thereby placed, it would puzzle one to decide on what ground they are incapacitated from judging on a question such as the need of running a few cars on a Sunday. There was once a story current in England of a candidate for parliamentary honours who, in making an election speech spoke of potatoes and red herring as being sufficiently good fare for the ordinary labourer, and that man was not elected, although "the people" had not the vote in those days. Probably some of our Toronto aldermen have seen their last opportunity of serving the people on the city council likewise.

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For several years the question of placing women on the Board of Public School Trustees has been mooted in this city, but it was found difficult to persuade women to stand for election, partly owing to the fact that numbers of women possessed property in their own name which was assessed in their husband's name, and partly from a natural shrinking from the publicity which attends an election. At last several ladies have consented to stand, seeing that the need of their presence on a council where the interests of so large a number of women as our public school teachers represent becomes increasingly necessary; and, moreover, from a feeling that the education of our girls and boys ought to be as interesting a study, and the care of it as bounden a duty on our women as our men.

The Toronto W.C.T.U. is taking the matter actively in hand, as also that of putting in the city council as many friends of temperance as possible.

Dr. Augusta Stowe-Gullen, one of our best known lady physicians, and a ratepayer, stands for District No. 5; Mrs. R. Macdonell, of Parkdale, also a ratepayer, for District No. 7; Mrs. Vance, a lady of much influence in the East End, for that district, and Mrs. D. Cowan, for

many years president of Toronto W.C.T.U., for District No. 4.

The lady members of the High School Board, Mrs. O'Connor, Miss Wilkes and Miss Carty take their places at the Board and serve on committees very acceptably.

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Twice during the present week has the Auditorium been crowded with an enthusiastic audience. On Wednesday evening the Hon. the Minister of Marine spoke on Canadian affairs, making a strong impression as to his ability and his wide grasp of his subject.

On Thursday evening Col. Geo. T. Denison gave a lecture on the "National Spirit, the Life of a Nation," for the Sons of England. Col. Denison's appeal to history was a masterly sketch of the value of national sentiment in all the heroic ages of the world, and the lecture was, beside, a splendid delivery on the future of Canada, and marked by a perfection of literary form which is as rare as it is attractive. The lecture was intended as a reply to Professor Goldwin Smith's late address to the Young Liberal Club, on "Loyalty and Jingoism," and the apostle of pessimism was handled without gloves. Mr. Tupper had also taken occasion to deal severely with Professor Goldwin Smith.

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The Agnes Huntingdon Opera Company is to be with us next week, and Alfred and Heinrich Gruentfeld, the Court pianiste and Court violincellist to Germany and Austria, are to give a concert at the Pavilion in New Year week, so that the absence of that dearly-beloved—and worthily so—Christmas amusement of England, the pantomime, will not be so severely felt as is sometimes the case.

But why cannot we have a pretty pantomime for the children's sake? Have we no clown—no harlequin—no Columbine? Surely, yes, if only they would go into training. And with the electric light and a little Greek fire what wonders can be done!

S. A. CURZON.