

PRIZE BIBLE COMPETITION.

OVER THREE HUNDRED BOY AND GIRL STUDENTS.

We have much pleasure in now announcing to our young Bible students the result of their studies in the life of Esther. Three hundred and nine papers were sent in and but for the influenza, and a few other drawbacks, they would have been examined before this. But better late than never.

The first prize we judge has been well earned by Miss S. Beatrice Blanchard, Truro, Nova Scotia.

The second prize has been awarded to Miss Annie E. Butcher, London, Ontario.

The third to Miss Aggie Ferguson, Caintown, Ontario.

Boys, is not there some mistake here, or are you only holding back to give the girls a chance this time? Next time we shall expect you to claim some of the prizes as you did before.

The following is the essay which won the first prize:—

ESTHER.

Esther, a noticeable character in Bible history, was a Jewish orphan living in Persia at the time of the reign of King Ahasuerus. During the first part of his rule we know very little of this Jewess excepting that she lived with, and was under the guardianship of her cousin, a Jew named Mordecai; but soon an event occurred which brings Esther before us as one of the prominent characters of the period.

For some offence Ahasuerus' queen, Vashti, had been dethroned; and among the maidens brought to the king for inspection Esther was the most pleasing. Accordingly she was chosen and in due course was proclaimed queen with all the privileges previously accorded to the now deposed Vashti.

Now, Haman, one of the influential princes at the palace, had a great hatred of Mordecai, Esther's cousin, and he determined to have him executed. So he came to the king with a cunningly devised story about the Jews in the kingdom not obeying the national laws and asked permission to have the offending people exterminated. His request was granted and the Jews were condemned to die on the thirteenth day of the month of Adar. Great was the mourning among the doomed people and Mordecai put on sackcloth and ashes and cried in the streets of the city. Word was brought to Esther of Mordecai's lamentations and when she sent to ask about his trouble he told her what had happened and begged her to go to Ahasuerus and intercede in behalf of her own people. She at first hesitated but was finally prevailed upon to accept the mission. The king greeted her kindly and asked what she would have of him. She replied by asking the king and Haman to a banquet at her house on the morrow and when there she invited them to another feast on the following day. When the king asked her for the third time what she wanted she told him of the evil rumors that had been circulated regarding the Jews and of the decree that had been issued calling for their death and she asked him to save her people. Now when it became known to Ahasuerus that Haman was the instigator of these wicked actions he was very angry and had him hanged on a gallows that Haman had prepared for the execution of Mordecai, while to Mordecai the king gave control of the house that had belonged to Haman, and otherwise honored him.

Now as the laws of the Medes and Persians could not be changed, Ahasuerus had no power to revoke the offending decree, but permission was given to Mordecai and Esther to issue another decree allowing the Jews to punish any who might try to harm them. They were successful in repelling the attacks of their enemies and the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the twelfth month were kept every year as a time of feasting, because at that time their lives had been spared, and their sorrow and mourning had been turned into joy and gladness.

S. BEATRICE BLANCHARD, aged 16 years. Hillside, Truro, N. S.

The following young people sent in papers almost as good as those of the prize winners and are deserving of special mention. Kate Macpherson, Ontario; Jenny A. Gibson, Ontario; Mary Rennie, Ontario; Gertrude Blackett, Quebec; Daisy E. Patterson, Nova Scotia; Elias W. Le Grand, Quebec; Minnie Porteous, Ontario; William Flook, Ontario; Bertha J. Castlo, Quebec; Cora G. Blair, Quebec; Effie Duffett, Ontario; Georgie Watts, Ontario; Norman L. Cooke, Nova Scotia; Cora M. Silver, Quebec; Emily I. Titemore, Quebec.

HONORABLE MENTION.

The following young people, many of whom very nearly won a prize, are specially deserving of honorable mention:—

John R. McEwen, Quebec; Janet McDonald, New Brunswick; Archibald McFee, British Columbia; Trenholme McFee, British Columbia; Esther A. Pogue, Ontario; Bessie A. McInnis, Ontario; Winnifred Woodell, Ontario; Jessie Blackwood, Ontario; Bessie H. Swim, Nova Scotia; Bella F. Christie, Ontario; M. Olive Jones, Manitoba; Bessie Sawyer, Ontario; Daisy Cavan, Ontario; Mary V. Watson, Ontario; Hattie Williams, Ontario; Estella S. Gardner, Nova Scotia; Douglas McIntosh, Ontario; Jennie Warren, Ontario; M. C. Ferguson, Ontario;

Maggie McIntosh, Quebec; Amy E. McWilliams, Ontario; Rebecca J. McDonald, Ontario; John N. Stark, Nova Scotia; Mary E. Vining, Ontario; Jennie Edmondstone, Ontario; Addie McDougall, Ontario; Edith Francey, Ontario; Ella Fraser, Quebec; Etta T. McBride, Quebec; William A. Piper, Ontario; Annie Parson, Ontario; Susie Little, Ontario; Chono B. Oliver, Ontario; Carrie Wildo, Ontario; Nellie A. Findlay, Ontario; Alice Hammond, Ontario; Jessie Murdoch, Ontario; Robert Mitchell, Ontario; Nellie Weylie, Ontario; Flora A. Bryant, Quebec; Lina H. Swim, Nova Scotia; Mary E. Moir, Ontario; Nellie Nairn, Ontario; Maude M. North, Ontario; Henry B. Morley, Ontario; Violet B. Graham, Ontario; Cora M. Lindsay, Nova Scotia; Mary P. Coffin, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia; R. H. Jenkins, Prince Edward Island; Hattie G. Wells, Ontario; Alfred H. Armstrong, Nova Scotia; Flora E. Hart, New Brunswick; Eleanor Carmell, Ontario; Belle McKay, Ontario; Helena Evans, Quebec; Ethel G. Payne, Ontario; James H. Lemon, Ontario; Eva Newton, Kansas; Sarah A. L. Fraser, Michigan; John Thom, Ontario; Alice Bentley, Nova Scotia; Maggie Crighton, Ontario; Ermina Rant, New Brunswick; Ethel A. McNich, Ontario; Norman Campbell, Quebec.

The following are the names of our other young students, whom we wish to congratulate for the evidences of study and care shown in each paper. We should like to welcome double the number into our study circle next time:—

Annie Osborn, Ontario; Robert Simpson, Ontario; Barbara Ferguson, Ontario; Mary Duff, Quebec; John Westbrook, Quebec; Jane Ann Stephen, Ontario; Eliza Cooper, Newfoundland; Jennie F. Robinson, Ontario; Louisa Caldwell, Quebec; Jennie Foley, Ontario; Bella Campbell, Ontario; Maggie A. Campbell, Ontario; Annie Dower, Ontario; Evan McQuarrie, Ontario; Robert Stenhouse, Ontario; Viola L. Tedford, New Brunswick; Jennie Henderson, Ontario; Wm. Robertson, Quebec; Ollie A. King, Ontario; Eva Homonway, Ontario; May Hope, Ontario; G. W. Sutherland, Nova Scotia; Mabel G. Palmer, Ontario; Blanche Burgess, Nova Scotia; Angelina Ray, Quebec; Dorothea Bilton, Quebec; Thos. Collins, Ontario; Jessie Stears, Ontario; Alvin McCracken, Illinois; Maud Forster, Ontario; Jessie A. Patullo, Ontario; Aggie E. Bruce, Ontario; Arthur McCallum, Ontario; Ernest M. Straight, New Brunswick; Lizzie A. Turvey, New Brunswick; Mary Harris, Ontario; Martha Beattie, Ontario; Edith M. Rainforth, Ontario; Annabel Rainforth, Ontario; Lizzie Patton, Quebec; Maggie J. Murray, Ontario; Sarah J. Johnstone, Manitoba; Letitia H. McGuire, Ontario; Maggie Harvey, Ontario; Edith F. Gilmore, Ontario; Fred E. Robertson, Quebec; Catherine Thomas, British Columbia; Nellie Archer, Ontario; Lillie A. Kelly, Ontario; Jane Clark, Ontario; Annie J. E. Scott, Manitoba; Bessie Morrison, Ontario; Mary Cuthbertson, Ontario; Clara Skinner, Ontario; Wm. B. Flock, Ontario; Edie J. Busewell, Ontario; William Haggart, Ontario; E. A. Bruce, Ontario; Eva Fuller, Michigan; Christina Catherine McNab, Ontario; John E. Mahow, Nova Scotia; Ella McKay, Ontario; Bessie Meikle, Ontario; Nettie W. Derby, Ontario; G. E. Bell, Michigan; Percy Johnson, Ontario; Annie G. Fraser, Nova Scotia; Mamie Dawson, Prince Edward Island; Charles A. McDonald, Nova Scotia; Lizzie Robb, Massachusetts; Bertha A. Leslie, Ontario; Maggie Cameron, Nova Scotia; Isabel H. Mordy, Ontario; Barbara Lewis, New Brunswick; Ello M. Conklin, Ontario; Janet G. Cook, Ontario; Dan. W. McDonald, Nova Scotia; Caroline Bragg, Ontario; Signora R. Powers, Quebec; Effie Mill, Ontario; Lucy Mill, Ontario; M. E. Augvin, Nova Scotia; Laura Lousley, Ontario; Ella Cook, Ontario; Eliza Henderson, Ontario; Mary Ross, Ontario; Mabel Allison, Ontario; Ada McKee, Ontario; Euphemia Nutbrown, Quebec; Mary M. Clapham, New Brunswick; Edith Longfellow Baird, New Brunswick; A. V. Bilton, Quebec; Maggie J. Peddie, Quebec; William V. Brown, Ontario; May C. Bates, Ontario; Addie Bigwood, New York; Millie Partridge, Nova Scotia; Jennie K. Barr, Quebec; George Young, Quebec; Ettie Washington, Ontario; Maud Montgomery, Prince Edward Island; Etta Goodnow, Manitoba; Louella Cumming, Ontario; Edith McDonald, Ontario; William S. Naylor, Quebec; Arthur W. Fisher, Minnesota; Jessie M. Gates, Ontario; Mary Jane Elliot, Quebec; Maggie J. Cameron, Quebec; Blanche Stockall, Nova Scotia; Ellen Burkholder, Ontario; Winnifred Urquhart, Ontario; John Gamble, Ontario; Ida Richardson, Ontario; Arthur Vining, Ontario; Albert Vining, Ontario; Amy Davidson, Ontario; Eva Lewis, Quebec; Colin McArthur, Nova Scotia; Jessie A. Campbell, Ontario; Nellie Smith Fleming, Ontario; Lillie Mison, Ontario; Ada Fuller, Michigan; Annie R. McKay, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia; Flora A. Harris, Ontario; Charlotte B. Browley, Illinois; Edith Murray, New Brunswick; Charlotte Hannah, Ontario; Jock B. Gase, Nova Scotia; Grace Cannon, Ontario; Katie Fuller, Ontario; T. Hard Barker, New Brunswick; May Fleming, Ontario; Martha J. Puley, Ontario; Marion R. Rann, Ontario; Maggie Simpson, Ontario; Annie Lillie Cavers, Ontario; Helen F. Cavers, Ontario; C. J. McKinnon, Manitoba; Mabel A. Barnes, Ontario; Lydia Ann Shoemaker, Ontario; Maggie Wee-s, Ontario; Bessie Davies, Quebec; Jennie Cleland, Ontario; Carl Bishopric, Ontario; Minna McLaren, Manitoba; Carrie M. Stewart, Ontario; Arthur A. Stewart, Quebec; Mary Jakeway, Ontario; Christina R. Shaud, Ontario; James Cameron, Ontario; Annabel Fleming, Ontario; J. A. Sutherland, Illinois; Joseph Craydon, Ontario; Kate Byrnes, Ontario; Maud Tomlinson, Ontario; Charlie C. Williston, New Brunswick; Charlie Reid, Ontario; Maggie G. McFarlane, Quebec; Harvey Cameron, Ontario; Lillie Eagles, Ontario; Jessie M. Wood, Minnesota; Maggie Anderson, Ontario; Jean E. Vallance, New Brunswick; May Somerville, Ontario; Jessie E. Grant, Nova Scotia; Bessie Goodfellow, Ontario; Mary Louise Turnbull, Ontario; Annie Hammoell, Ontario; Frank Carruthers, Ontario; Maud Worden, Ontario; Effie Trout, Ontario; C. Burgess Cameron, New Brunswick; Helena Cooto, Ontario; Juliet M. Jordan, Ontario; Maggie Moore, Ontario; W. B. Johnston, Michigan; John Hueston, Quebec; Mary McCracken, Ontario; May Larue, Ontario; May E. Hattie, Nova Scotia; Willie F. Sawyer, Ontario; Julia E. Ames, Quebec; Sallie Welch, Quebec; Ada Newall, Manitoba; Ida Brooks, Ontario; Edward

T. Kerr, Ontario; M. Althea Birdsall, Nebraska; Lillie Eagleson, Ontario; Joel Hathaway, Massachusetts; Lena A. Scott, Manitoba; Alice Hooker, Ontario; Stella R. Findlay, Ontario; Ada Haryott, Ontario; Minnie B. Bancroft, Nova Scotia; Mary Sim, Ontario; Mary M. Nelson, Ontario; Allan Campbell, Ontario; Selina J. McKenzio, Prince Edward Island; Lewis McCracken, Illinois; Helen Hennepries, Ontario; Alex M. Macaulay, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia; Martha Thistle, Nova Scotia; Ezra McGregor, Ontario; May Henderson, Ontario; Lillie Scott, Ontario; Lena L. Dower, Ontario; Christina Graham, Ontario; Edith Annie Cram, Ontario; S. E. C. Tomlinson, Ontario; Willio Stevenson, Ontario; Lydia Delancy, Ontario; Susan McAllen, Ontario; Eva Hicks, Ontario; Debbie Ford, Ontario; Alice M. Lawlor, Ontario; Annie Holiday, Quebec; Annie Kennedy, Ontario; Ella Sharpe, New Brunswick; Elvira Furler, Ontario; Anna Amelia Hooker, Ontario; Effie Morrison, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia; Minnie S. Carr, Ontario; Howard H. Nye, New Brunswick; Jemina G. Dobbie, Ontario; Bessie J. McKenzie, Nova Scotia; Harriet Reed, Manitoba; Percival Whittaker, New York; Jane E. Sutherland, Nova Scotia; Annie Laughton, New York State.

In our next number we hope to offer another set of prizes. Watch for full particulars.

NEW CLUB RATES.

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

Table with 2 columns: Quantity and Price. 1 copy \$ 0 30, 10 copies to one address 2 25, 20 " " " " 4 40, 50 " " " " 10 50, 100 " " " " 20 00

Sample package supplied free on application JOHN DOUGALL & SON, Publishers, Montreal.

THE ATTENTION OF SUBSCRIBERS is earnestly called to the instructions given in every paper that all business letters for the Messenger should be addressed "John Dougall & Son," and not to any personal address. Attention to this will save much trouble and will reduce the chances of delay or irregularity.

MONTREAL DAILY WITNESS, \$3.00 a year, post-paid. MONTREAL WEEKLY WITNESS, \$1.00 a year, post-paid. JOHN DOUGALL & SON, Publishers, Montreal, Que.

True Merit Appreciated.—Brown's Bronchial Troches are world-renowned as a simple yet effective remedy for Coughs and Throat Troubles. In a letter from Hon. Mrs. Pery, Castle Grey, Limerick, Ireland, they are thus referred to:—"Having brought your BRONCHIAL TROCHES with me when I came to reside here, I found that, after I had given them away to those I considered required them, the poor people will walk for miles to get a few."

GRATEFUL-COMFORTING. EPPS'S COCOA. BREAKFAST.

"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected Cocoa Mr Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavored beverage which may save us many heavy doctors bills. It is by the judicious use of such articles of diet that a constitution may be gradually built up until strong enough to resist every tendency to disease. Hundreds of subtle maladies are floating around us ready to attack wherever there is a weak point. We may escape many a fatal shaft by keeping ourselves well fortified with pure blood and a properly nourished frame."—Civil Service Gazette.

Made simply with boiling water or milk. Sold only in packets by Grocers, labelled thus: JAMES EPPS & CO., Homoeopathic Chemists, London, England.

Advertisement for D.M. FERRY & CO. SEED ANNUAL. THE BEST SEEDS are those put up by D.M. FERRY & CO. Who are the largest Seedsmen in the world. D.M. FERRY & CO's Illustrated, Descriptive and Priced SEED ANNUAL for 1890 will be mailed FREE to all applicants, and to last season's customers. It is better than ever. Every person using Garden, Flower or Field Seeds should send for it. Address D.M. FERRY & CO. WINDSOR, ONT.

THE NORTHERN MESSENGER is printed and published every fortnight at Nos. 321 and 323 St. James St., Montreal, by John Redpath Dougall, of Montreal. All business communications should be addressed "John Dougall & Son," and all letters to the Editor should be addressed "Editor of the Northern Messenger."

Large advertisement for Demorest Corsets and Sewing Machine Co. LADIES 100,000 DEMOREST CORSETS FREE. 100,000 SHOULDER BRACES FREE. YOUR CHOICE. 100,000 STOCKING SUPPORTERS FREE. A MARVELOUS OFFER By A Reliable House! Every lady has heard of MME. DEMOREST. Her name is a by-word in every house in the land. Her celebrated Patterns have been in use over 40 years. We are the publishers of the well-known publication, Mme. Demorest's Illustrated Monthly Fashion Journal and we wish to increase its circulation 200,000 copies during the next 30 days, and to that end we will give away to new subscribers 100,000 Demorest Celeb'd Corsets FREE. 100,000 Shoulder Braces FREE. 100,000 Stocking Supporters FREE. The Mme. DEMOREST ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY FASHION JOURNAL is a 36 page paper, beautifully illustrated, covering every possible field of Fashionable Fancy Work, Home Decorations, Cooking, etc., each department being under the special supervision of the best known contributors. It is besides replete with matters of interest to mothers, and is furthermore filled with illustrations, stories, sketches, humor and matters of general interest. Every lady should send the clothes from the shoulders. How To Obtain A PAIR OF SHOULDER BRACES AND Two Articles: A PAIR OF Stocking Supporters FREE. Send us 50 Cents for one year's subscription to our JOURNAL, and 25 Cents additional to pay postage and packing, 75 CENTS in all, and we will mail you one of these handsome CORSETS FREE. REMEMBER THERE IS NO HUMBUG ABOUT THESE OFFERS. We do exactly as we guarantee. Our house has been established for over 40 years, and we can refer you to any Commercial Agency, Bank, Express Office or Business Firm in the land. Make all remittances either by Draft, Postal Note, Money Order, or Registered Letter. When postal note is not procurable, send stamps. Address all communications to THE DEMOREST FASHION & SEWING MACHINE CO., 17 EAST 14th STREET, NEW YORK. This offer should be taken advantage of at once as we will give away no more than 100,000 of each article. SHOW THIS TO YOUR FRIENDS. IT WILL NOT APPEAR AGAIN.