

ESSAYS ON "OUR CHURCH."

Thanks for your response to the call for essays. Thank you every one. In some cases the essays were not on the subject that I offered a prize for, but I want to thank you for them and they will do yourselves good.

Most of the essays upon "our church" were from young people between nine and twelve years of age; a few were from those between twelve and fifteen; and the task I had was to pick out the best one from each of those ages.

I tried for some time to do this but there were so many of them about equal, that at length I decided I would have to divide the prizes up into small pieces.

This has been done, and a small bill has been sent to each of the following names:—

James McDonald Ross, Blue Mountain, N.S.; Grace H. Patterson, Truro, N.S.; Alexander Farquharson, Newport, N.S.; Norman Laing, Bowmanville, Ont.; Alice E. Hodgetts, St. Catharines, Ont.; Nellie Ratcliffe, St. Catharines, Ont.; Isabella R. McCurdy, Toronto, Ont.; Mary Currie, Blytheswood, Ont.; Douglas Jeffrey, Blytheswood, Ont.; David Ross, Brucefield, Ont.; Robert James French, Unionville, Ont.; Christina MacFarlane, Franktown, Ont.; Roy Spoonenburg, Melbourne, Ont.; Mary Renwick, Kirkwall, Ont.; Carment Noble, Brandon, Man.; Mary Fraser, Oak River, Man.; Bessie Malvern, Carberry, Man.

I had thought of publishing the ones, but there are so many nearly equal that all cannot be printed and it has been thought better just to give the names.

I hope that all the young people who have thus shown their interest will grow up to be good and useful members of "our church" helping to do the great work which she has before her. Better still, remember that now you are a part of "our church"; that now you have a work to do in the home, the Sabbath school, at work and play, by being young *Christians*. Being Christians when you are young is the way to prepare for being Christians when you get older. Christian children grow into Christian men and women.

CHRISTMAS ON SANTO.

WHERE is Santo? It is the largest and most Northernly Island of the New Hebrides group, peopled with savage cannibals.

About six years ago, two of our missionaries, Mr. and Mrs. Annand, went to live there to tell them of Christ who came to save them from sin.

Patiently they have worked and waited. Some of the natives have become friendly, and one boy, Potara, who has been with them three years, was baptized. Remember the name Potara, the first baptized convert on Santo, the largest of the New Hebrides group. Although but a lad, he was married, and he brought his wife with him.

Three other lads have left their heathen companions and have come to live near the missionary, which means that they have given up heathenism. Two of them were married and have brought their wives.

Last Christmas Mr. and Mrs. Annand thought they would try and make a happy day for the people who were living near the mission premises, so they prepared quite a fine dinner for them of native food, at which between twenty and thirty natives sat down. How different it was from the heathen cannibal feasts that these people used to have not long ago. Then there was murder and death, now there was peace and good will.

After the dinner they had some games for them which the people enjoyed very much. A little Christmas present was given to each one, which made them all the more happy.

Then in the evening all were gathered into the little church and were given a magic lantern treat. The missionaries find that this is a good way to teach them Scripture truths and stories, by showing them Scripture scenes and describing them, and thus they seek to lead them to Christ.

The day was brought to a close by singing and prayer, the people went away happy, and the good missionary and his wife felt that the day had not been spent in vain, that something had been done to help these poor people to a better life.