

Prize Stories.

Two prizes were offered, the first for the best and the next for the second best story on the picture that appeared in the December REVIEW. The names of the winners of the prizes were published in the January number, and the stories were to be published in February, but they were overlooked. They are given below:

WHAT I SEE IN THE PICTURE.

Long, long ago a little acorn fell to the ground and planted itself there very firmly. A little squirrel coming along found the acorn, and was just going to run off with it when a great hawk came along, and the squirrel had to flee for his life; so the acorn was left very near the place where it fell, and had to grow there. Some time after this the squirrel felt hungry and remembered the acorn, but it was nowhere to be found. It had sunk into the soft earth. The next year there was a little tree where the acorn had been, and it grew and grew up towards the sky. "Oh, how I do wish that I could be as tall as my mother!" it sighed. But the tree had to be patient for a while. It kept on growing till it was quite tall. One day some boys came into the woods, and they thought that one of the oak limbs would be good for the fire some cold winter morning; so up the tree one of the boys climbed and cut off the limb and took it home.

Soon the rain came and rotted the wood, so that it would be very easy for a squirrel or woodpecker to claw out.

One day, very early in the spring, some bright-eyed squirrels were jumping from tree to tree. They spied the decayed spot, and clawed and clawed till they had a nice hole, big enough for a whole family of squirrels to live in. They threw back some of the decayed wood, brought moss, and made a soft nest. Soon there were five little squirrels in it. The little squirrels grew bigger and bigger, until they could jump from tree to tree and gather nuts for themselves.

At last, Jack Frost came, turning the leaves red and orange and other pretty colours. Soon afterwards they fell to the ground. Then the snow came, and soon Christmas.

On Christmas morning the little squirrels went out to dinner, leaving their father and mother at home. Just at the front of their house was a nice branch on which they could sit. So they came out on the branch, and brought some hazel nuts with them. While they were eating, a little chickadee came and sang a song, and they enjoyed their dinner very much.

ANNA CREIGHTON (age 10),

Middle Musquodoboit,
Halifax County, Nova Scotia.

THE AUTUMN DAY FEAST.

One cold autumn day two little squirrels came forth from an old oak tree with a supply of hazel nuts which they had stored away in the late autumn. The place they

were eating them was near the large hollow tree. All of a sudden, a little piper hopped up on a branch close beside the squirrels. He seemed to want to have a little chat with the feasters. "Won't you have some hazel nuts?" asked the squirrels of the piper. "No, thank you!" said the piper. "I do not like that kind of a meal. I eat worms, insects and seeds." The squirrels are very skilful in breaking their nuts, but I do not think the piper could do it at all, or he would have accepted the kind invitation to dinner. To show that he is thankful for the invitation, he is piping his merry tune as they eat.

ISABEL PROUDFOOT (age 11).

Hopewell, N. S.

Opening Exercises.

The old saying—

"A Sabbath well spent
Brings a week of content,"

may be rendered for the teacher,

"The op'ning hour well spent
Brings a day of content,"

for it is true that during the whole day there is no period more important, more far-reaching in its influence, than the ten or fifteen minutes devoted each day to the opening exercises. Begin the day aright, get the pupils interested, enthusiastic, in touch with you.

Have the opening exercises as varied as possible. If you must do the same thing every day, do it in a different way.

Don't sing the same songs every morning. Let the children choose what they will sing. Have a solo occasionally, or a duet, or a quartet. Practice the special music after school so it will be a surprise for the other children. Let the pupils tell a joke or two some morning for a change. A hearty laugh cheers the atmosphere wonderfully.

Keep on with the news of the day. There is no better way to secure the parents' interest in your school than by getting the children interested in the affairs of the work-a-day world.

If a girl has a gift for elocution, help her to get up a recitation for morning exercises.

Celebrate anniversary occasions, and birthdays of famous men and women. Invite the parents to be present at these celebrations.

Occasionally turn your exercises over to a committee of pupils. You will be surprised to find what interesting programmes they can arrange.

Some dull morning spend the entire opening period in singing. It will brighten the whole day.

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