

Youths' Department.

THE SAVIOUR COMES.

Add to your brilliance all ye stars of night,
Sing as ye fly, ye rapturous hosts of light,
The Saviour comes, the Son of God most high,
As man to live, for sinful man to die.

Hail Him, ye tribes and people, bond and free,
Rude and refined, adoring bend the knee;
Cultured and savage, sovereign and slave,
Worship the Heavenly King, earth-born to save.

Tidings more sweet could angels never sing,
Or from the court of heaven to mortals bring,
Than that God sent His well-beloved Son
To suffer for the wrongs that men had done.

O tidings blest, well may we bear them on
To every tribe and realm beneath the sun;
Till to all people they have found their way,
And hastened on the world's millennial day.

—W. H. PORTER, in "Canadian Scenes and Other Poems."

GOING TO SCHOOL IN AFRICA.

CURLY-HEADED boy or girl with shining black face, bright eyes, and a laughing mouth, showing such white teeth our Canadian boys and girls might covet. Bare feet and arms, a gay-colored dress, gathered at the neck, two holes instead of sleeves, and reaching to the knees. Do you see this little child going to school in Africa? You cannot see any school house for they meet under a big tree with mud or sand instead of slates or note books. A large sheet is hung up on two poles containing the letters of their alphabet, and the patient missionary stands ready to explain it to the eager scholars. Too busy for recess or noon play.

If you had waited as long as African boys and girls to learn to read, you would consider it better than the best game. Each scholar is expected to pay a little towards the expense of a teacher if the parents are not too poor.

People prize blessings more that cost them something. These children bring whatever they can find to be used in the building of a school house bye and bye. A grass-roofed hut at first, large enough to keep them sheltered from the rain. Bye and bye a better building, as the people realize the need,

What do they study? First, the Bible with its wonderful stories all so new to the boys and girls of Africa. Then some of the hymns you love to sing, translated into their own language,

and very sweet they sound sung by these black boys and girls (whose relations are the sweet Jubilee Singers, some of you have heard). Then these boys and girls are taught to pray to a Saviour who loves them instead of to the evil spirits that have been the terror of their childhood. No witch-doctor can frighten them with evil spirits ready to harm them, when they have trusted Jesus as their Redeemer. Such funny names they have, hard for the missionary to understand or pronounce. They have such comical meanings that one wonders how any mother ever chose them for her darling babies. Bye and bye they learn how to read and spell, and even to do sums.

As soon as they grow up they want to teach other boys and girls all over their dark land the glad tidings the white teachers have brought to them from England or America. When we have our Christmas gatherings, many of them will be learning for the first time of Christmas, and of all its wonderful meaning.

Will they get any presents? Perhaps so, for many Sunday Schools send boxes to these little Africans just as our Mission Bands do to Indian Schools, with all the little gifts they prize so highly.

The very best present for them and for us is to know Jesus Christ and that long ago He came to earth, a gift from our Father in Heaven, given because "God so loved the world." Not just Canada, or England, or America, but the whole world. Let us think of these black boys and girls this Christmas, while we are so happy in our Christian homes. Pray that Jesus may have many a faithful soldier from these African schools to fight against the great army of wrongs in the Dark Continent. Bye and bye, when we all get safely home to the beautiful Heaven Jesus is preparing for all who trust Him, these little black brothers and sisters will join in the "Glory Song" with us. We shall all be white then, washed in the blood that makes black hearts whiter than snow. I would rather have a black skin and a white heart than a white skin and a black heart! What do my girls and boys think about it?

SISTER BELLE.

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