

## THE LAST DAY OF THE YEAR.

The last December twilight darkens slowly,  
With farewell pathos over sea and shore,  
Ere long the Old Year will have vanished wholly,  
A sacred nevermore.

So full of days!—glad days, when love unravelled  
All tangles of existence with a smile,  
When rosebuds opened in the path we travelled,  
And birds sang all the while;

Sad days, wherein, with anguish sore uplifted,  
Our prayers asked life for one love could not  
save;  
Alas! through summer rains the rose leaves  
drifted  
Into an open grave.

Dark days, lived through, yet still our own to  
ponder,  
Unchangeable as only past things are,  
Their endings here are God's beginnings yonder,  
He keeps both near and far.

Oh to live so that any day with meekness  
Might be the prelude to the life on high,  
To make each spoken word, in truth and sweet-  
ness,  
Fit for a last good-bye.

For the night cometh, with its swift resigning,  
Its one step through the silence safely trod,  
And then the glad New Year for ever shining  
Upon the hills of God!  
—Mary Rowles.

## DEAF-MUTE EDUCATION.

A modern theory, through which the condition of deaf-mutes has been wonderfully changed, acts upon the supposition that such afflicted persons are mute only because they are deaf. There is no defect in the vocal organs, but the fact that no sounds can be heard led to the supposition that they cannot be imitated. Science, however, has at last succeeded in remedying so serious a difficulty. Speech is accomplished both by the motion of the lips and the vibration of the throat. Sight will give us intelligence in regard to the first, and touch should supply knowledge of the second.

In beginning to teach deaf-mutes the art of speech, they are first placed before a mirror, and taught to form with their lips the different vowel sounds used in speaking. But this is not all. Sounds are produced not only by the lips, but by the larynx, the vibration of which is strongest in the region known as the "Adam's apple." The pupil places his finger upon his master's throat, while that vibration is going on, and then, touching his own, strives to imitate it. Then, when he is in possession of these elements of speech, he has only to combine them, in order to produce syllables, words and phrases.

The course of instruction is not, however, a very rapid one, since a series of exercises known as the preparatory period has first to be accomplished. It is an interesting fact that, before learning to speak, the lungs, larynx, tongue, lips and eyes have to be so exercised as to be in a state of readiness to operate.

Each inspiration draws into the lungs an average of thirty cubic inches of air, but in speaking, at least one hundred and twenty cubic inches are used. The deaf-mute must, of course, be taught to inhale a sufficient quantity of air, and to regulate respiration, otherwise, his air supply would fail, and his speech become jerky and disagreeable.

If the larynx, also, were not given preliminary exercise, the spoken word might be feeble or discordant, while the tongue, unaccustomed to any work but that of managing the food, must learn to accommodate itself to a different set of motions.

The lips of deaf-mutes are always far less supple than those of persons normally developed, and consequently require systematic exercise. The eyes do not need to be taught keenness, as they have always been on the watch, to supply information usually furnished by hearing; but they are taught to attain greater power of fixedness, that the attention may be concentrated without diversion upon the lips of any person speaking.

It has been observed that the sense of touch is less delicate in the deaf-mute than in other children, and this, also, demands special exercise.

## GERMANY'S DRINK BILL.

Germany's own papers and statistics refute the claim that little drunkenness exists in that beer-loving country. Witness

the following current item from the German press: "Germany annually spends 430,000,000 marks for its army, but not much less for its alcoholic drinks, which cost 406,000,000 marks. Statistics show that the intemperate class furnishes thirty percent of all the insane, fifty percent of all the poor, and seventy percent of all the criminals."—*National W.C.T.U. Bulletin.*

## A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

That the *Northern Messenger* is a welcome and eagerly-looked-for visitor in thousands of homes in all parts of the country we have long received strong evidence. As another New Year comes around, we again thank our readers one and all for their words of appreciation and for their active help, and assure them that this year, as in the past, every effort will be made to continue to deserve their good wishes. We are determined that this year the *Northern Messenger* shall reach thousands more people than it has ever reached before, and again ask the co-operation of our friends. If only one in each family into which the *Messenger* goes will undertake to show it to another family who do not yet get it this will be accomplished in a very short time. The *Northern Messenger* has long been known as the best paper for the price in the country and we hope this year to make it better than ever. For the special inducements offered just now to our workers, we refer them to items elsewhere in this page. If any have not yet renewed their subscription for this year we would urge them to do so at once so that they may be able to preserve their file complete. To all our old friends, and to all the new who are coming, we tender our heartiest holiday greetings and our sincerest wishes for A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

## MESSENGER OFFERS.

BOOKS, READY MONEY AND PICTURES FOR "MESSENGER" READERS.

The *Messenger* is doing well this year. Its readers say it is more interesting than it ever was before. We think they are right. But we want it to be more interesting still and are devising means to make it so. You can help by sending us many new subscribers. We have very many now, but we want to reach more—thousands more. And every worker for the *Messenger* will be doubly paid. First, by obtaining valuable premiums for his effort; secondly, and much better, by knowing that he is placing in the hands of others a paper whose whole influence is beneficial. This is something well worth working for.

And now we want to make an interesting new announcement. Every old subscriber who sends six subscriptions to the *Messenger* old or new, at 30 cents each, will have mailed, postage free, any book in the Home and Club circulating library catalogue or any one of the bound Pansy Library. If he sends eleven subscriptions he will receive two of these books.

The demand for the Pansy stories has been very great, and we have decided to encourage it still more by sending the bound copies, postage free, for thirty cents each to any subscriber of the *Messenger*.

Any one who collects ten cents in payment of a *bona fide* new subscription of the *Northern Messenger* for three months may send us the address with five cents and the *Northern Messenger* will be duly sent for the time mentioned, the object being to get the paper into a new family.

Any old subscriber to the *Northern Messenger* who, on remitting his own subscription, can get a new subscriber to remit with him in the one envelope can have the two papers for a year at twenty-five cents each. Further, new subscriptions sent with the subscription of an old subscriber will be taken at the same rate of twenty-five cents each.

Anyone who collects twenty cents in payment of the subscription of a *bona fide* new subscriber to the *Weekly Witness* for three months may send us the address with ten cents, and the *Weekly Witness* will be duly sent to such address for the time mentioned, the object being to get the paper into a new family.

A permanent home library or a club circulating library of a hundred volumes, more or less, can be obtained only by subscribers to the *Witness* and *Northern Messenger* on the remarkable terms below. The books are nicely printed and handsomely bound in cloth, and many of them fully illustrated. They are unabridged, and commonly sold at 75 cents each. A catalogue of these works appears below. To subscribers to the *Messenger* who send in their renewal or new subscriptions before the close of this year, they will be forwarded postage free for forty cents each in addition to the usual subscription price of the *Witness* or *Messenger*.

Each old subscriber to the *Messenger* who sends a new subscription to the *Weekly Witness* with his renewal of the *Messenger*, at \$1.30 for the two, will receive free any book he may choose from the list below.

## HOME AND CLUB CIRCULATING LIBRARY CATALOGUE. PRICE, 40 CENTS.

Tom Brown's School Days.....	Thomas Hughes
Tom Brown at Oxford.....	"
Captains of Great Roman Republic.....	Henry William Herbert
Irving's Scotch Book.....	Washington Irving
Knickerbocker.....	"
Alhambra.....	"
Astoria.....	"
Vicar of Wakefield.....	Oliver Goldsmith
Ivanhoe.....	Walter Scott
Guy Mannering.....	"
Waverley.....	"
Rob Roy.....	"
The Abbot.....	"
Crown of Wild Olives.....	John Ruskin
Ethics of the Dust.....	"
Sesame and Lilies.....	"
Frederick the Great and His Court.....	Mulbach
Heroes and Hero Worship.....	Carlyle
Sartor Resartus.....	"
Lays of the Scottish Cavaliers.....	W. E. Aytoun
Mistress and Maid.....	Miss Mulock
Mill on the Floss.....	George Eliot
The Monastery.....	Sir Walter Scott
Two Years Before the Mast.....	Dana
Brief Biographies.....	Samuel Smiles
Self Help.....	"
Vice Versa.....	F. Anstey
Bonaparte.....	De Puy
Burke on the Sublime and Beautiful.....	"
The Pilgrim's Progress.....	John Bunyan
20,000 Leagues under the Sea.....	Jules Verne
Tour of the World in Eighty Days.....	"
The Mysterious Island.....	"
Michael Strogoff.....	"
The Giant Raft.....	"
John Halifax, Gentleman.....	Miss Mulock
Young Mrs. Jardine.....	"
Cobwebs and Cables.....	Hosba Stretton
Through a Needle's Eye.....	"
Hester Morley's Promise.....	"
In Prison and Out.....	"
Bede's Charity.....	"
Life of Nelson.....	"
George Eliot's.....	Poetical Works
Goldsmith's.....	"
Fitzgreeno Halleck's.....	"
Kingsley's.....	"
Lowell's.....	"
Longfellow's.....	"
Miss Mulock's.....	"
Procter's.....	"
Scott's.....	"
Thomson's.....	"
Whittier's.....	"
Whittier's.....	"
Willis's.....	"
Ingelow's.....	"
Mrs. Browning's.....	"
Robert Browning's.....	"
Bryant's.....	"
Tennyson's.....	"
Milton's.....	"
Campbell's.....	"
Lays of Ancient Rome.....	Macaulay
Mark Seaworth.....	W. H. G. Kingston
Peter the Whaler.....	"
Captains of the Old World.....	H. W. Herbert
History of France.....	Yonge
Germany.....	Yonge
Hyacinth.....	Kingsley
Household Book of Wit and Humor.....	"
Imitation of Christ.....	A Kempis
Young Folks Book of Birds.....	Bible
Young Folks' Natural History.....	"
Kidnapped.....	Stevenson
Cressy's Battles.....	"
Diseases of the Horse.....	Hind
Life of Franklin.....	Wecms
Anderson's Fairy Tales.....	"
Aesop's Fables.....	"
Robinson Crusoe.....	Daniel Defoe
Swiss Family Robinson.....	"
Tasso's Jerusalem Delivered.....	"
Foxe's Book of Martyrs.....	"

## THE PANSY LIBRARY.

The English edition, with about 350 pages each book, very handsomely bound in cloth, large clear type.

1. Four Girls at Chautauqua.
2. Little Fishers and Their Nets.
3. Three People.
4. Echoing and Re-echoing.
5. Christ's Christmas.
6. Divers Women.
7. Spun from Fact.
8. The Chautauqua Girls at Home.
9. The Pocket Measure.
10. Julia Reid.
11. Wise and Otherwise.
12. The King's Daughter.

13. Links in Rebecca's Life.
14. Interrupted.
15. The Master Hand.
16. An Endless Chain.
17. Ester Reid.
18. Ester Reid Yet Speaking.
19. The Man of the House.
20. Ruth Erskine's Crosses.
21. Household Puzzles.
22. Those Boys.
23. Modern Prophets.
24. The Randolphs.
25. Mrs. Solomon Smith Looking On.
26. From Different Standpoints.
27. A New Graft on the Family Tree.

## CHEAPER STILL.

Any subscriber to the *Messenger* who sends in with his renewal subscription one new one, each at thirty cents, will receive one of the Pansy stories; for five cents extra the new subscriber will also receive a book. Each story is in an illuminated paper cover and well illustrated. Sixteen subscribers at 30c, new or old, will entitle the sender to the full set of this new paper cover series. The names of these stories that may be selected are as follows:—

- THE KING'S DAUGHTER.  
WISE AND OTHERWISE.  
FOUR GIRLS AT CHAUTAUQUA.  
THE CHAUTAUQUA GIRLS AT HOME.  
THREE PEOPLE.  
AN ENDLESS CHAIN.  
ESTER REID.  
ESTHER REID YET SPEAKING.  
RUTH ERSKINE'S CROSSES.

## FOUR BEAUTIFUL PICTURES.

Any subscriber to the *Messenger* who sends in with his renewal subscription that of a new one, each at 30 cents, will receive his choice of any one of the following four noble pictures. If he sends in one new subscription with his own, at 30 cents each, and ten cents in addition, making 70 cents, he will receive any two of these beautiful large pictures:

- "THE ANGELUS," by Jean Francois Millet.  
"SCOTTISH CATTLE RAID," by Rosa Bonheur.  
"THE HORSE FAIR," by Rosa Bonheur.  
"CHRIST BEFORE PILATE," by Michael Von Munkacsy.

## TO SUBSCRIBERS IN THE UNITED STATES.

Our subscribers throughout the United States where International money orders cannot be procured can remit by money order payable at Rouses Point Post Office, N. Y. State, or secure an American Express Co., order, payable at Montreal.

## NEW CLUB RATES.

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

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.

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

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.

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'."