

"I declare, Joe, I wouldn't have hurt the old fellow's feelings so for anything," said Bert, gulping down a sob.

"I don't know," said Joe, "maybe it was best. Wint does not lie; it cost him dear to ask our pardon so humble. I believe in him, after all. And I am not so sure he has altogether missed his opportunity. I think we might do worse than to pray for him, and for ourselves too."

"So do I," said Bert, turning away.

After a few moments he came over to the table beside which Joe yet stood, re-reading Wint's confession and appeal.

"I say, Joe," he began, in a low voice, "shall we write to Wint and promise him that we will?"

"Pray for him and for ourselves? Yes. Only it will be more comfort to him to hear that we had prayed. I was horrid mean this morning, answering him so."

"And I was mean, saying he'd better backslide, and all that," added Bert. "I ought to ask his pardon."

"Bert," said Joe, seriously, "let's join in, and help one another. You know the Bible says, 'a threefold cord is not quickly broken.'"

"Well," said Bert, "I will."

The boys fell on their knees, and Joe prayed aloud.

Bert joined in the Amen with earnest voice. They rose from their knees and clasped hands in token of a new and sacred fellowship.

A few days later, Wint read a letter signed by Joe and Bert, telling of their new resolve, their prayer for him, and their fellowship with him. And when he had read it he laid his head upon his arm and cried for joy. For he received it as a word of forgiveness and assurance from the Saviour whom he had so wronged, and to whom he had so earnestly cried, that for His own mercy's sake he would not suffer his disloyalty to destroy the souls or hinder the conversion of the friends he loved.

From that hour Wint was a loyal soldier of the cross. And daily he thanks God that his extremity was so signally made God's opportunity for the salvation of the souls of Bert and Joe.

And the threefold cord still holds.—*Christian at Home.*

THE crisis in Plymouth Church is past. The annual auction of pews in that sacred edifice did not bring such extravagant prices as in former years, yet the shrinkage is by no means alarming. The total sales aggregated \$15,400. With rentals added, the amount realized is \$27,000, against \$34,800 last year. The highest ever realized was in 1875, when the amount was \$68,997. Mr. Beecher, it is said, felt exceedingly cheerful at the conclusion of the sale,

News of the Churches.

CHEBOQUE, N. S.—The Sabbath-School of Zion Congregational Church held a festival on Christmas eve. Although the night was not inviting, either above or beneath, the church was well-filled, and the Christmas tree looked just the thing. A picked tree, dressed with taste by the ladies, it was justly commended. A good programme of singing, recitations, and readings was ably sustained by members of the school, and the superintendent gave us an excellent address, reviewing the history of the school in the past. The pastor received a handsome study lamp and bronzed irkstand, besides stationery and other things; Mrs. Watson a nice set of china and other gifts. After a most enjoyable evening the company separated, trusting that though this was the first Christmas tree in this church, it would not prove the last.

EATON.—The Rev. Geo. Skinner is doing a good work in the name of his Lord and Master. There have been additions to the church and prospect of more. Mr. Gay, Evangelist, from Toronto, laboured here a few days the early part of December. There has been good seed sown in this place and faith awaits the increase. H. F.

KINCARDINE.—Rev. C. L. Ross, writing from this field, says: "The Lord is blessing us here. The work of grace commenced in the Kincardine church during the services of the week of prayer, and is still going on. Many have been awakened. Some have found peace, others earnestly seeking. We have services in the sanctuary every evening. The Lord's people seem to be wonderfully revived."

MIDDLEVILLE.—The proverbial delays in building are delaying the opening of the new church edifice here, but our Brother McColl, writes cheerfully, and hopes to give an account of completion in our next issue.

PINE GROVE.—The annual Sabbath-School entertainment and distribution of prizes took place on New Year's evening. In the absence of the pastor, the chair was taken by W. A. Wallis, Esq. The Rev. Mr. Reid, Presbyterian minister, was present, and gave an appropriate address. The children and some friends sang and recited suitable pieces, which gave pleasure and satisfaction to the audience. The trees were well laden with presents, the organist and pastor being specially remembered, the former receiving a handsome cruet and other presents, the latter a handsome cutter robe. The church was nearly filled, and the funds of the school increased by \$27. After meeting all expenses for the past year the treasurer reports a balance on hand of \$20. The annual church meeting of the above was held on Jan. 11th. The secre-