

AS OTHERS SEE US.

We have been greatly encouraged in our efforts to produce a first-class monthly by the kindly and flattering notices of the press and public. We could easily fill two or three pages with such notices, but as our space is very limited we are only able in this issue to publish a few of the press references to our Mid-Winter number (February). They speak for themselves:

MASSEY'S ILLUSTRATED for February is undoubtedly the neatest and most valuable publication of its kind printed in Canada. The illustrations are original and excellent, the reading varied and all of interest and value, and the print handsome. It is truly a journal of news and literature for rural homes. Address MASSEY'S ILLUSTRATED, Toronto.—*Wendland Tribune*.

MASSEY'S ILLUSTRATED is a monthly magazine gotten up in a very neat, attractive style, full of illustrations and interesting practical information. It is published at Toronto, only 50 cents per year. Send for a free copy.—*The Maple Leaf, Port Dover*.

MASSEY'S ILLUSTRATED is the name of a bright and entertaining publication, issued monthly at Toronto, at 50 cents a year.—*Gloucester Transcript*.

We have just received the February number of MASSEY'S ILLUSTRATED, published by the Massey Manufacturing Company, Toronto, and devoted to the interests of farmers. It contains a large amount of news and literature for rural homes and is well worth the subscription price—50 cents per annum.—*The Erin Advocate*.

MASSEY'S ILLUSTRATED for February is an exceedingly interesting number. The contents are instructive and the illustrations particularly fine. Altogether it is a very creditable publication indeed. Printed monthly by the Massey Press, Toronto, Ont., at 50 cents per year.—*Pictou Gazette*.

MASSEY'S ILLUSTRATED magazine for February came to hand and is well filled with choice literature, and contains a large number of handsome illustrations. Altogether it is well gotten up and is worthy of the patronage of the public. The subscription price is 50 cents per annum.—*Orono News*.

MASSEY'S ILLUSTRATED, mid-winter number, comes to hand replete with interesting matter. It aims to be a welcome guest in the homes of Canadian farmers, and it fills the bill very successfully.—*The Canadian Manufacturer*.

MASSEY'S ILLUSTRATED for February is a most entertaining and readable publication. It is full of choice reading matter and is worth double the small subscription price asked—fifty cents per year.—*Petrolia Advertiser*.

MASSEY'S ILLUSTRATED, a monthly, published at Toronto, comes to hand decked in mid-winter dress. Its pages are bright with many illustrations to catch the eye, and replete with many spicy stories and news from all quarters, enough to satisfy the most ravenous reader. Send for sample copy and it will speak for itself.—*Canadian Live Stock and Farm Journal*.

THE MASSEY ILLUSTRATED, published by the Massey Manufacturing Co., of Toronto, is one of the breeziest little sheets that comes to our table. It is a spicy paper for farmers, containing a great deal of very readable matter.—*The Independent, Grimsby*.

THE Mid-Winter number of MASSEY'S ILLUSTRATED is specially good. It contains a number of excellent illustrations and a variety of choice reading, consisting of travel, story, anecdote, poetry and useful information for the household, garden, poultry-yard and farm. The subscription price is fifty cents per year, or five cents per copy. Send for one. Address, The Massey Press, Massey Street, Toronto.—*The Conservator, Brampton*.

MASSEY'S ILLUSTRATED for February has arrived and is full of useful and interesting reading. It is neatly printed on fine paper and cannot fail to please all who peruse its pleasant pages. Send five cents to Massey at Toronto and receive a sample copy.—*The Herald, Oshawa*.

THE Mid-Winter number of MASSEY'S ILLUSTRATED contains a number of interesting articles, short stories, poems and miscellaneous items. It is finely illustrated and printed on toned paper which gives it an attractive appearance. The wonder is how this enterprising firm can furnish such a monthly budget of good things at the small sum of 50 cents a year. It is superior in appearance and contents to many of the higher priced magazines.—*Winnipeg Sitings*.

WE have just received a specimen number of the MASSEY ILLUSTRATED, a splendid monthly magazine devoted to the farm, fireside, etc., and should be in the household of every farmer, mechanic and gentleman. The young people's department alone is worth more than the price of the magazine, which is only 50 cents a year. Address MASSEY'S ILLUSTRATED, Toronto, Ont.—*The Cowansville Observer*.

MASSEY'S ILLUSTRATED.—The mid-winter number of this excellent magazine has come to hand, and is replete with useful and interesting matter for both the household and the farm. We can confidently recommend it as being one of the best monthlies of its kind published. The subscription is only 50 cents per year. Send to the Massey Manufacturing Company for a specimen copy.—*Pembroke Standard*.

MASSEY'S ILLUSTRATED, published by the "Massey Press," Toronto, at 50 cents per year, is a neat little 16-page magazine filled with entertaining and useful matter. The February number, now before us, is equal to many of the high-priced magazines.—*The Times, Bedford, Que.*

MASSEY'S ILLUSTRATED for February is deserving of favorable comment and the farmers should get a copy from Toronto so as to judge of its merits.—*The Maple Leaf, Albert, N.B.*



The Prize Essays.

We are very much pleased and gratified that the offer made in the February number of the ILLUSTRATED of two prizes for an essay on "Why I Like Life in the Country" has caused such widespread interest among boys and girls living in the country. Up to 6 p.m., on March 15th we had received sixty essays. They came from all parts of the Dominion, and one little girl sent an essay all the way from Yorkshire, England.

It will be conceded by every boy and girl that our task was a very delicate and difficult one, and if any should feel disappointed at our decision, all we can say is that we have done our best without fear, favor or affection to give honor to whom honor is due. We carefully perused each of the essays and selected ten for final consideration. Up to this time our work had been easy but now came the tug-of-war. Our choice for first prize fell upon Nelly Wasly, Newmarket, Ont., 14 years of age, who received full points, and for second prize Harley D. Maxwell, Moore's Mills, Charlotte Co., N. B., who received 99 points. The two entitled to honorable mention are Malcolm Outwater, Adolphustown, Ont., 98 points, and Sarah Patterson, Oakville, Ont., 96 points. Close upon these came Maggie Annan (under ten years of age) Dunbarton, Ont., and Euphemia C. Currie, Acton, Ont., both 95 points. The remaining four of the ten gained respectively 89, 87, 85 and 84 points. One of these, Dora Watts, Settle, Yorkshire, England, is only ten years of age. In this issue we publish the first and second prize essays; next month we will publish the two that received "honorable mention," and in our June number we will show what can be done by two ten-year-old girls, Maggie Annan and Dora Watts. Maggie's essay is one of the most ingenious and charming productions of a little girl that we have ever had the pleasure of reading. Now, boys and girls, we feel proud of you. Many of you showed great originality and thought in your effusions and proved that there was good stuff in you which will enable you, if properly developed, to rise to eminence in whatever phase of life your natural inclinations may prompt you to select. There was only one humorist in the whole lot, Archie Anderson, Apsley, Ont., 11 years old. We would advise Archie to cultivate his power of humorous description and he will soon be able to fill a long-felt want in Toronto journalism. A large number of the essayists took occasion to refer to the wonderful achievements of the Massey machines in the harvest field. This is very satisfactory and no doubt true, but what we were puzzled about was whether such kindly reference to the machines was an ingenious attempt to tamper with the judges. Maud Riggs, Bronte, Ont., sings the praises of the Massey Binder as follows:

The Massey Binder cannot be beat,
Because its parts are all complete;
It does its work so neat and clean,
I know it is the best machine.

One wanted us to deduct 50 cents from his prize, if he got one, for a year's subscription to the ILLUSTRATED. Others spoke highly of the ILLUSTRATED and wished us every success. To all these we return our warmest thanks. We feel so satisfied with the results of our offer that we have decided to send each essayist a copy of our handsome lithograph, "Ruth the Moabitess." We would urge upon every boy and girl to canvass for subscriptions to the ILLUSTRATED, and thereby earn some of the valuable presents offered in our illustrated Premium List. One boy, in the North-west, has already procured over 100 subscriptions, and he is not nearly finished yet. Look what he will be entitled to in the shape of presents, and he will also, most likely, win one of the cash prizes of \$50, \$35 and \$15. All boys and girls have the same chance. Set to work in earnest; you will find that very few people will object to give 50 cents for such an excellent paper as MASSEY'S ILLUSTRATED. They are only waiting to be asked to subscribe.

The names and addresses of the essayists are as follows:—

Nellie Wasly, Newmarket, Ont.
Harley D. Maxwell, Moore's Mills, Charlotte Co., N.B.
Malcolm Outwater, Adolphustown, Ont.
Sara Patterson, Oakville, Ont.
Maggie B. Annan, Dunbarton, Ont.
Euphemia C. Currie, Acton, Ont.
Jennie Sullivan, Lockton, Ont.
Rosanna Hussey, Asten Mills, Ont.
Dora Watts, Settle, Yorkshire, Eng.
Ruth Curtis, Mongolia, Ont.
Archie Anderson, Apsley, Ont.
Mary E. Virtue, Darlington Tp., Ont.
Hattie E. Nobel, Salmon Point, Ont.
Maud Riggs, Bronte, Ont.
Bella McBrien, Shamrock Lodge, Kinsale, Ont.
Johnnie Johnston, Wardsville, Middlesex Co., Ont.
Norman Carwell, Cypress River, Man.
Ada Leathers, Markham, Ont.
Jas. H. Brownrigg, Alfred P.O., Ont.
Addie Morden, Pincher Creek, Alberta, N.W.T.
Maggie Adams, Westport, Ont.
Lilly Oatway, Greenridge P.O., Man.
Clara Bodine, Fingal, Ont.
Christina Carstairs, Bonanton P.O., Ont.
John W. Brown, Chard, Ont.
Bessie Love, Stanton P.O., Ont.
Bessie May Towriss, Riverbank, Ont.
Karl L. Maxwell, Moore's Mills, Charlotte Co., N.B.
Maude Bailey, New Glasgow P.O., N.S.
Willie Higgins, Melgund, Ont.
Archy McGregor, Jr., Kippen P.O., Ont.
Eddie L. Greenwood, N. E. Harbor, N.S.
W. F. Burditt, Jr., Crouchville, St. John Co., N.B.
Jessie Azalea Patullo, Alton, Ont.
Edmund B. Hope, Whitewood, N.W.T.
Mary Elizabeth Mullen, Cypress River, Man.
Carrie Robinson, Shawville P.O., Clarendon, Que.

Clara Quinton, Blantyre P.O., Ont.
Maggie Holmes, Wellington, Man.
John Flaherty, Thorndale P.O., Ont.
William Ackland, Forfar, Ont.
Minnie Connors, Wyoming, Lambton Co., Ont.
Sarah M. K. Carr, Newcastle P.O., Ont.
Cash H. Remick, Barnston, Stanstead Co., Que.
Burpee Bishop, Pt. Williams Sta., Kings Co., N.S.
Fletcher Sparling, Goring P.O., Ont.
Fred Batten, Collingwood P.O., Ont.
Daniel H. Hollingsworth, Escott P.O., Ont.
Georgina Walton, care of Mrs. G. Hutchison, Albion P.O., Ont.
Jennie Ramsay, Ramsay's Corners, Ont.
James Edgar Betler, Winslow P.O., Ont.
Annie Maher, Macville P.O., Peel Co., Ont.
Bella M. Porter, Porters, St. John, N.B.
Caroline E. Brown, Chard, Ont.
Ann Catherine McLennan, care of A. B. McLennan, Lancaster P.O., Ont.
C. K. Palmer, Fredericton, N.B.
Victoria Willard, Emerald, Amherst Island, Ont.
George A. Chown, Stella, Ont.
Katie Leader, Burnside, Man.
One Essay had neither name nor address.

FIRST PRIZE ESSAY.

It is very pleasant living in the country, away from the noise and bustle of the city. In the spring, if it is a good year for maple syrup and sugar, we go over to the camp getting all we can eat and carry home. Later on, when sugar making is all over and the warm days of summer have come, we go to the woods and listen to the sweet singing of birds, pluck the pretty wild flowers, paddle in the stream in bare feet or catch the little fish. Another pleasure is to watch the men in the harvest field cutting, binding and shocking the grain. In the autumn we have a good time picking fruit, but we have still better times eating it. We have apples, currants, plums and berries. When the cold days of winter come we put on our warm clothes, and in the evenings we sit around the blazing fires and read nice story books. In the morning, as we have over a mile to go to school, pa always takes us in the cutter and comes for us when school is out. Evenings, when it is not too cold, we go sleigh riding or skating. When Christmas eve comes we hang up our stockings and go to bed early but do not sleep much wondering what Santa Claus will bring us. We generally get lots of candies, nuts, and some nice present. When we get our work done we go away to a Christmas dinner, or have one at home. Then comes New Year's eve. We do not expect many presents then as it is so soon after Christmas. We usually sit up till after midnight to see the old year out and the new year in. New Year's day is about like Christmas. Is there any reason why I should not like living in the country?

NELLIE WASLY,
Newmarket.

SECOND PRIZE ESSAY.

In discussing this question I shall arrange my reasons under four heads. First, I like life in the country from a healthful point of view. Secondly, from the natural advantages which it affords one of observing the beauties of nature. Thirdly, from the real enjoyment which is to be derived from such a life; and lastly from the moral advantages which it possesses.

I place health above all other reasons, because without possessing that we can have no genuine enjoyment in life no matter where we may reside. I think it is needless for me to argue before impartial judges, that the country affords superior opportunities to obtain and preserve one's health. With its pure and unpolluted atmosphere, with its freedom of motion and exercise, and with its almost unbounded expanse, affording the greatest diversity of vigorous, healthful and life-sustaining action, who is there that for a moment would contend that there is any place which surpasses the country as a region calculated to preserve a healthy condition of the body?

I now arrive at my second reason—the natural advantages which it affords of viewing the beauties and wonders of nature. What can be grander than upon some still evening in summer, just as the sun is slowly setting, to stand upon a country hill-top and view the scenery in a quiet village nestled at its base? In the west the horizon is all aglow with the splendor of the sinking sun, the true magnificence of which only poets can describe.

There may be many in the more densely populated portions of our country who would take exception to my third reason, and who imagine that we in the rural districts are in a great degree destitute of means of enjoying ourselves socially. Those who are of this opinion never made a grander mistake. Why, it is in the country where the young boy or girl can have those entertainments and sports which will not only be most beneficial to them, but which will enable them to spend the happiest time of their life in the happiest manner possible. Among the brilliant balls which the rich and influential give in your boasted pleasure-giving cities, I challenge anyone to prove that more pleasurable or happier evenings are spent than at the quiet, unassuming parties which are held in country villages.

And now I come to the last and one of the most important of my reasons, and on account of space I will have to make the discussion under this head shorter than I would like. It is the great moral reason, which, upon throwing all others aside, will turn the balance in favor of the country. It is the country which is the birth-place and the home of good morals. The very constituents of which it is composed could suggest nothing to one's mind but purity and high moral life.

And now in summing up these points I appeal to an unbiased public, to determine if the country is not the home of all that is refining and elevating in nature, and the place best suited to pass a life of happiness and peace.

HARLEY D. MAXWELL,
Moore's Mills, Charlotte Co., N. B.