

THE HEART OF WINTER.



CANADIAN boy or girl will know how to appreciate the beauty and the poetry of the winter picture on the following page. First we have the old-fashioned, cheery, open fireplace, now disappearing, where the merry flames snapped and crackled and roared up the wide chimney throat; where grandpa and grandma, father and mother, basked in the blaze and told stories of "Auld lang syne" to the children.

Then there is the broad mill-pond above the dam, where the ring of the skater's steel is heard, and the ice snaps and cracks in the frost, and the great icicles hang from the mill wheel.

But best of all the boys will enjoy the "coasting" down the long hill. How they fly along, almost like a bird, over the slippery snow. What if they sometimes get a tumble into a deep drift! Their merry shouts fill the air, and they climb up the long hill and start again. That's the way to succeed, boys. If you fail once, try again and again, till you master your task, however difficult. Life with most of us, who are grown up boys and girls, is a long uphill road, sometimes hard to climb, but, thank God, there is a glorious reward, and rest, and joy at last. Let us, therefore, not grow weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not.

The last picture, that of the poor houseless wanderer exposed to the pitiless peltings of the storm, should excite our sympathy and pity. God help the poor in the cold wintry weather. But He only does so by putting into the hearts of His servants a love for the bodies and the souls of men. Do you want to win the smile and favour of God? Then listen, "Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the Lord will deliver him in the time of trouble."

Look at this German portrait of winter, boys, and see if you do not like it:—

- "Old Winter is a sturdy one,
And lasting stuff he's made of;
His flesh is firm as iron stone;
There's nothing he's afraid of.
- "Of flowers that bloom, or birds that sing,
Full little cares or knows he;
He hates the fire, and hates the spring,
And all that's warm and cosy.
- "But when the foxes bark aloud
On frozen lake and river,—

When round the fire the people crowd,
And rub their hands and shiver,—

"When frost is splitting stone and wall,
And trees come crashing after,—
That hates he not, but loves it all;
Then bursts he out in laughter.

"His home is by the North Sea's strand,
Where earth and sea are frozen;
His summer home, we understand,
In Switzerland he's chosen."

LESSON NOTES.

B. C. 1034.] **LESSON IX.** [March 2.
THE PRAYER OF THE PENITENT; OR, HUMILITY
BEFORE GOD.

Psalm. 51. 1-13. Commit to memory verses 9-13.
OUTLINE.

1. Man's sin. v. 1-5.
2. God's grace. v. 6-13.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. Psa. 51. 2.

INTRODUCTORY.—Who wrote this Psalm? What great sin had he committed? Who had reproved him? Read 2 Sam. 12. 1-10.

1. Confess your sins to God.
2. Trust in his mercy.
3. Pray for a clean heart.

Find the name of another king of Judah who repented of his sin, and was forgiven.... Find, towards the latter part of 1 Chronicles, what other sin Satan tempted David to commit, and what came of it.

B. C. 1034.] **LESSON X.** March 9.
THE JOY OF FORGIVENESS; OR, SALVATION FROM GOD.

Psalm 32. 1-11. Commit to memory verses 7-11.
OUTLINE.

Salvation—

1. From sin. v. 1-5.
2. From dan_er. v. 6-9.
3. From sorrow. v. 10-11.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Psa. 32. 1.

INTRODUCTORY.—This Psalm was probably written by David soon after his repentance, as set forth in the last lesson, and celebrates his joy at forgiveness. It is one of the seven which Augustine is said to have studied incessantly.

1. If you *confess* you will be *forgiven*.
2. If you *trust* you will be *kept*.
3. If you *obey* you will be *blessed*.

Find in 1 Kings, and read, Solomon's prayer for forgiveness of the people when they should sin.... Find and read Daniel's prayer of confession, and for forgiveness of sins.... Find, in the latter part of Luke, Christ's prayer for the forgiveness of his enemies.