

## Christmas Bells.

BY J. E. U. NEALIS.

RING, happy Christmas bells! your silver chime

With far-off angel voices keepeth time!  
Ring "Peace on Earth"—Rejoice, O hearts that mourn,

Lift up your heads—the Prince of Peace is born!

It is the Children's Feast, who have a right  
To have their own sweet way on Christmas night;

And we, the older, must give place to them,  
For Christ was once a child in Bethlehem!  
Remember, too, the sick—whose weariness  
Needeth a kindly hand to soothe and bless;  
Ah, who can tell what wistful longing dwells

For them, in the sweet sound of Christmas bells!

And you at whose fireside the "Vacant chair"

Stands, sadly waiting one who once sat there;

The well beloved—without whose dear face  
The world is but an empty barren place!

Be comforted—God took them—that is best;  
Make some one in their stead a welcome guest—

And God shall bless you with a double share  
Of love and joy to fill that vacant chair.

And you whose children gather round your knee

This Christmas-tide—your joy and pride—  
Ah! me,

Think of the little ones as fair as they  
Who share no tender mother's love to-day!

Know what you give to them to God is given—

And orphans' prayers are always heard in Heaven!

And, perhaps, some "boon" you've asked  
for long in vain,

Thro' their sweet guileless prayers you may obtain!

With generous hearts give noble charity  
That knows not race, or creed; but royalty  
With lavish hands brings warmth and food  
and light

To all who need them on this blessed night!

## The Youth's Companion.

WE have made arrangements whereby we can furnish this high-class young people's paper to any reader of HOME AND SCHOOL or of the *Methodist Magazine* at the reduced clubbing rate of \$1.50, instead of \$1.75, the full price of the *Youth's Companion*. The cash \$1.50 must in all cases accompany the order. Address the Rev. W. H. Withrow, Toronto.

This year the *Companion* had articles from Tennyson, Victor Hugo, and other foremost writers in the world. The following is its announcement for 1885:—

The *Companion*, now in its fifty-eighth year of publication, has attained a weekly circulation of 340,000 copies, —a larger circulation than that of any other literary paper in the world. Its steadily increasing success imposes an additional responsibility upon its conductors, to deserve the appreciation and encouragement of American parents.

The purpose of the *Companion* is unchanged. It aims to present each week a newspaper filled with reading of the best quality; pure in tone; instructive, entertaining, correct and elegant in style; furnished by the best and most noted writers and specialists in the world. No expense has been or will be spared to procure the services of any writer who can supply interesting, useful, and helpful matter for its columns.

Above all, it is the aim of the *Companion*, to exclude, both from its reading and its advertising pages, whatever may be of harmful, or even of doubtful influence,—whether it be weakly sentimental on the one hand,

or harmfully sensational on the other. It will use all its abilities, and all of its resources, to make young people manly men, and womanly women.

## SERIAL STORIES FOR 1885.

A Serial Story, for Boys, by J. T. Trowbridge; Serial Story, for the Household, by Mrs. Oliphant; Serial Story, for Boys and Girls, by Alphonse Daudet; Mère Suzanne, by Katharine S. Macquoid; A Country Cousin, a Story for Girls, by Edgar Fawcett; Adam Junior, A Serial Story, by George Manville Fenn; Suspected, A Serial Story, by Frank R. Stockton; Serial Story, for Bad Boys, by C. A. Stephens.

## SCIENCE AND EDUCATION.

During the year, a remarkable series of articles by eminent writers will be given on the following subjects.—The Study of History, by James Anthony Froude; Popular Science for Young People, by Prof. Tyndall; The Cultivation of the memory, by Prof. Max Müller; The Study of English Literature, by Cannon Farrar; The Chemistry of Sea and Land, by Prof. T. Sterry Hunt; Star Clouds, and other Articles, by Richard A. Proctor; Whirlwinds, Cyclones and Hurricanes, by Prof. W. M. Davis; Precocious Boys in History, by E. P. Whipple; Children a Thousand Years Ago, by E. A. Freeman; School Life in the English Lake Country, by James Payn; Episodes in American Politics, by Edward Stanwood.

## PRIZE SHORT STORIES, FOR 1885.

Prizes to the amount of \$3,000 were offered in 1884 by the *Companion*, for eight short Stories. Nearly seven thousand manuscripts were sent in competition, many of them by noted and eminent writers in both Europe and America. They were Stories for Boys and Girls: Humorous Stories; and Stories of Adventure. For eight of these, the prizes have been awarded by eight competent judges. They will be published in the *Companion* during the year 1885. Of the nearly seven thousand Stories that failed to secure prizes, the best—that were adapted to the *Companion*—have been purchased, and many of them will be published during the year.

## ILLUSTRATED TRAVEL AND BIOGRAPHY.

Letters from Spain, by Louise Chandler Moulton; Letters from Persia, by S. G. W. Benjamin; Bush Life in Australia, by Archibald Forbes; Recollections of Faraday, by Prof. T. Sterry Hunt; Famous Ambassadors and their triumphs, by James Parton; Romance of a Dukedom, by Mrs. John Lillie; Young Generals in the War—some reminiscences of Gen. Grant, by E. V. Smalley; In the Heart of the Sahara—incidents and adventures, during a tour in the great African desert, by H. H. Weber; Companion Authors at Home—chatty descriptions of the homes of Wm. Black, Thomas Hardy, Mrs. Oliphant, and other English contributors to the *Companion*, by Wm. H. Rideing.

## INSTRUCTIVE AND ENTERTAINING.

An Exile's Escape from Siberia, by Col. Thos. W. Knox; Among the "Crackers," by Elliott Berd; Stories of Mill Girls, by an old "Operative;" Cranberry Bean Hall, or How we Paid for a Year at the High School, by C. A. Stephens; Those Terrible Parisians, or the Dangerous Classes of Paris, by

Junius H. Browne; Oddities of Japanese Life, from a Japanese point of view, by S. Arakawa.

## POETRY.

The poetical writers of the *Companion* will embrace the best talent we can secure, both at home and from abroad. Among the many names of regular contributors, we may mention: Miss Louise Chandler Moulton, Dr. Charles Mackay, J. T. Trowbridge, Miss Edna Dean Proctor, The Earl of Lytton, Paul H. Hayne.

## HUMOROUS AND OTHER SKETCHES.

Amusing Tales of Old Kentucky, by Geo. H. Bull't; Under the Kettle—an Amusing Escapade of Gen. Sherman's school days, by James McNally; Clever Things Done by Journalists; or the Strategies of News-gatherers, by Julius Chambers; A Thief in Prison, and descriptions of Explorations in the "Wilds of London," by the celebrated "Amateur Casual," James Greenwood; The Genuine Plantation Negro—a series of Humorous Sketches, with original negro Songs, by Joel Chandler Harris, "Uncle Remus;" Three Sharp Fellows—the career of three boys who thought themselves "smart," and who made three "sharp" ventures, and are now living with other "sharp fellows" in three large stone buildings, by Wm. M. Acton.

## STORIES OF ADVENTURE.

Some of the most stirring, yet unobjectionable Tales of Adventure that the *Companion* has ever published, will be given during the year 1885, selected from the Stories sent in competition for the \$3,000 Prizes.

The Lighthouse Keeper's Stories, by Justin Carrick; A Famous Coasting Exploit, by Olney Wing; Among the Labrador Eggers, by E. W. Wiswall; Hunters' Tales of the Red River Country, by F. W. Calkins, Tales of Frontier Life, by Men who have been Pioneers; Adventures of Two Young Naturalists, in the forests of Venezuela, by W. T. Hornaday; My Encounter with the Black Flags—an incident of the French Conquest of Tonkin, by Henri Meunier; Adventures Among the Savages of Patagonia, during an Expedition to the great native apple orchards of the Southern Andes, by C. A. Stephens; A Young Immigrant's Journey to Colorado—the pitiable experience of a Scandinavian lad, condensed from his own touching narrative by D. L. Chambers; Up the Trail—an account of stirring scenes and incidents connected with the Cattle Drive from a ranch on "the breaks" of the Llano Estacado, to Hunnewell, Kansas, by Amos M. Nevin; Grandfather's Stories, while Picking over Beans—stories of the first settlement of a "down-east" county; "The Haunted Saw-mill;" "A husking Frolic," and many others, "by one of the Bean-Pickers."

## NATURAL HISTORY.

The River Wolf, and Other Papers, by Felix L. Oswald; Tame Cockroaches, and Other Papers, by Rev. J. G. Wood; Fishing on Dry Land, and Other Curiosities of Natural History, by Prof. C. F. Holder; The Wild Horse and His Wanderings—a fascinating Series of Papers, by Arabella B. Buckley; A Bee's Brain; The Songs of Insects; Insects Useful to the Farm; and Other Papers, by Prof. A. S. Packard, Jr.

## ETIQUETTE AND HEALTH.

The Misuse of Medicine, by Dr. Wm. A. Hammond; Delusions Concerning Health, by Dr. M. Granville; Etiquette and Health—a series of Papers, by the editor of "Don't," by O. B. Bunce; Picked up by an Ambulance—a graphic account of the treatment of Street Accidents in the New York Hospitals, by Alex. Wainwright.

## THE ILLUSTRATIONS.

The Children's Page, filled with charming pictures, poems and stories, adapted to very young readers, has always been an attractive feature of the *Companion*. Among the new features will be full-page pictures.

The Editorials will continue to give, without any bias, clear views of current events at home and abroad. Among the constant contributors to this department, are James Parton, Rebecca Harding Davis, George Makepeace Towle, Edward Stanwood, and Louise Chandler Moulton.

The price of the *Companion* is \$1.75 a Year. Clubbed with HOME AND SCHOOL or *Methodist Magazine* it will be given for \$1.50.

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## Mistletoe Memories.

WHAT the poets say about Christmas: Comprising a collection of poems selected from the writings of H. W. Longfellow, J. G. Whittier, Thomas Hood, Alfred Domett, Chas. Mackay, Sir Walter Scott, Jennie Joy, and others. The whole bound in *Banner* shape, with silk fringe and tassels. The cover of this novelty is printed in nearly eighteen colours, and ranks exceedingly high as an art production. The original designs were awarded a prize of fifty pounds sterling, in a competitive exhibit of 6,000 entries. For presentation, this art souvenir combines the advantages of both art and literature. Size, 4 by 6½ inches. Price, with envelope and protector, only 35 cents. Sold by all stationers.

A TORONTONIAN writes thanking the Rev. W. Crafts and *The Independent* for the laudatory article about the observance of the Sabbath in Canadian cities. He submits, however, that Mr. Crafts' article does not possess its proper force, inasmuch as the writer fails to bring out the fact that proper observance of the Sabbath can exist along with a state of commercial activity and growth, such as only a few of the most progressive American cities can equal. Mr. Crafts gave the population of Toronto as 56,000. That was the population of the city in 1871. At the present time it is a little over 120,000—showing a rate of growth exceeded only by that of Denver and Minneapolis during the same period. That a city can make this phenomenal growth, and still absolutely drop business one day out of every seven is, perhaps, as solid an argument in behalf of Sabbath-keeping as could easily be brought forward.

Is it too much to ask the fathers of America to at least set enough value on their boys to yearly drop into the ballot-box a slip of paper that shall voice the sentiment of this journal—"We demand the prohibition of the liquor traffic."