

she said. At last she coaxed to have the calico and the pattern to study over, and she got her way.

She went upstairs into the company room, the only place where she could be safe from interruption. She had no thought at first of disobeying. It was a pair of shining scissors on the toilet-table that put the idea into her head. Then she said to herself, 'I understand how this cape ought to be cut. Mother thought I wouldn't notice these notches, but I see exactly what they mean. If I were to cut it, she would say, "Well, did I ever? Only to think of my having such a clever child!" Then she wished she had the cutting-out board, just to see how it looked. But it was in the room where her mother was asleep. So she spread her red calico on the bed, and pinned the pattern to it, and looked at the scissors in her hand. She hadn't really made up her mind to do it, when—snip, snip!—the scissors seemed to start off of their own accord.

'As well be hung for a sheep as a lamb,' she then said, 'and it will be a surprise!' She found herself saying over and over, 'splendid — surprise! — splendid — surprise!' in time to the cutting, to keep up her courage. She was nearly done when my great-grandfather called her. She finished cutting in a tremendous hurry, and ran down stairs with her work in her hand. She tried to look very gay and confident.

'See, mother,' she began, holding it up. And then an awful look came on great grandmother's face, and an awful sinking in grandma's heart. She was too sick, too scared, to cry. On one side of her red cape was the paper pattern, still pinned to it, but on the other, oh, on the other, was a neat cape of white dimity, cut out of great grandmother's counterpane!

'I can't tell you what my mother said,' wrote grandma. 'The green sod that grows upon her grave has covered over every harsh word, if any such were spoken. But my punishments were three, I was allowed to make the white merino cape, but it was given to my sister Charlotte. The dimity one was given to me for my Sunday cape, and I could not say a word. Mother trimmed the hole I had made in the counterpane into a square, and how she taught me to fill it in you may see for yourself. (I do not include this among my punishments, although doubtless so intended). Worst of all, when I showed symptoms of self-will, after that, I was made to wear the red cape for two hours at a time. And now, my dearest child—'; But my head is tired. I don't believe I'll copy the rest of her letter!

Only,—just suppose mother should take it into her head to array me in this old timey cape whenever I am obstinate! Mothers are less strict, nowadays. Grandma herself, says so. Still, I think I'd better not run any risks. Mothers have such a way of taking you by surprise.

A Bagster Bible Free.

Send four new subscriptions to the 'Northern Messenger' at thirty cents each and secure a nice Bagster Bible, suitable for Sabbath School or Day School. Bound in black pebbled cloth, with red edge, measures seven inches by five and three-quarter inches when open.

Harold found a thousand ways to be naughty, when he felt like it; but you'd be surprised how many ways there were to be good, when he felt like that!

Correspondence

Middleton.

Dear Editor,—I am a little girl eight years old. I take the 'Messenger,' and like it very much indeed. I go to school every day. We have nice times playing 'Here we go gathering nuts in May,' and some other nice plays. I like my teacher and playmates. I have two sisters older than myself. I live in Middleton, but our post office address is Denmark. Middleton is quite a thickly settled country place. I go to Sabbath school every Sabbath.

GRACE M.

P.S.—My mamma wrote this for me.

Stirling Brook, via Maitland, N.S.

Dear Editor,—In reply to your paper of January 31, L. P. wished to know what number had a piece in it named, 'The Chest with the Broken Lock.' I found it in the number for June 28, 1901. I think that it was a very nice piece. My subscription was out in Jan. 31. I like the paper very much, and expect to take it again.

S. F.

New Ross.

Dear Editor,—I have never seen a letter from here. My mamma, Mrs. Judson Meister, has taken the 'Messenger,' but she is very sick this winter, so my father gave me the money to send for it. I can't go to school in winter, for we live a mile and a half from the school. I have three sisters but no brothers. I go to Sunday school in summer. I have three miles to walk; that is quite a distance for a little girl of eight. We had a Christmas tree. My birthday is on July 26.

ELSIE R. M.

Oak Lake, Man.

Dear Editor,—I saw a letter in the 'Messenger' from C. D., of Black Creek, Ont., whose birthday is on the same day as mine, Dec. 21. I was twelve years on that day. I have also four brothers and one sister, like Constance. My two youngest brothers are twins, and are so much alike strangers cannot tell them apart. We all like the 'Messenger' very much. My mother used to take it when she was a little girl.

E. K. S.

Maybank, Que.

Dear Editor,—We have been taking the 'Messenger' for over five years. I like to read the correspondence part. We live on a farm; we have three horses. I have a dog called Fido. I go to Sunday school nearly every Sunday. We have about three miles to go. I have five minutes' walk to school. We keep the post office at our place. I have two sisters and five brothers. I am ten years old; my birthday is on May 19.

TENA McG.

Learned Plain, P. Q.

Dear Editor,—You said in one of your letters that perhaps the children of India would like to know what we do every day, so I will tell what I do. I do not go to school this winter, but have some lessons at home. In addition to that, I do some light housework, dishwashing I detest, also read, practice on the organ, make my little sister's doll's clothes, and play games; altogether spending a busy, happy time.

KATIE L. (aged 13.)

Warkworth, Ont.

Dear Editor,—I have taken the 'Messenger' for about two years. My grandma sends it to me. We have a dog and a cat, their names are Robin and Toots. I have three brothers and one sister. I am in the third reader. I like my teacher very much, his name is Mr. Ivey. One of my brothers teaches school. Papa takes the 'Witness' and 'World Wide'; he likes the 'World Wide' very much. My birthday is on November 28. We have lots of fun in the summer, playing hide and seek, and in the winter we skate. I sometimes wish summer was here, but winter is very pleasant, but rather cold sometimes. I have two dolls, I call them Bertha and Dorothy. I am ten years old.

CECIL C.

St. Catharines, Ont.

Dear Editor,—As I have never written to the 'Messenger,' I thought I would write. I have three sisters and one brother. We get the 'Messenger' at our day school, and I like it very much. I liked the story in the children's page called, 'Isabel's poor back.' I wrote a letter to Lettie Allen, but have not received an answer yet. My brother was shooting to-day, when the cartridge exploded and some powder went in his eye. It is very sore to-night. I read Mrs. Cole's letter, and think it is quite right. I would like to tell you a story, but I haven't time to-night. I would very much like to have some boy or girl of my own age write to me, and I would answer. I am twelve years old, my birthday being January 20. I would like to hear from Nellie S.

NELLIE R.

Address—Nellie E. Roland, St. Catharines, Ontario.

Bottineau, N.D.

Dear Editor,—My papa is a farmer in N.D. I go to school every day. My teacher's name is Miss Rodney. I have no brothers nor sisters, so I take fun out of my pets. I have three of them, Major is my dog's name, Tabby is my kitty's name. Flossy is my cow's name. Papa is trying to get me a pony.

GORDON McK.

London, Ont.

Dear Editor,—As I like to read the letters from the boys and girls, I thought I would write you my first letter. I get the 'Messenger' in my own name, and am glad every week when it comes. My papa took it when he was a little boy. I am seven years old. I go to day school, and Sunday school. I have got a pug dog, his name is Buller. He can do a lot of tricks.

GORDON B. T.

Libbytown, P.Q.

Dear Editor,—This is my first letter to the 'Northern Messenger.' I have taken it for one year, and think it is a very nice paper. I go to school every day. For pets I have two cats, their names are Topsy and Niger. I wonder if any young reader's birthday is the same day as mine, July 1.

CHRISTINA M. D.

Brinsley, Ont.

Dear Editor,—I have taken the 'Northern Messenger' since Christmas, and like it very much. Our farm is called 'Twin Maples,' and we have a nice sugar bush, with a camp on top of a hill. We tap over three hundred trees, and draw the sap to the camp in a barrel. It is boiled in big pans over a furnace. We have all the sugar we can eat, and we have lots of fun playing at the sugar camp. When we have lunch there we boil eggs in the sap. The river runs through our farm, and in summer we play in it and also catch fish.

ESTELLE C. (aged 10).

Oconto, Ont.

Dear Editor,—I saw a letter in your paper from Laura R. W., Scotch Line, Ont. She said she was eight years old, and her birthday is on May 30. That is my age and my birthday. She said she had two brothers and no sisters. I have two brothers and no sister. I never went to school, only a month last fall, and got in the second book. I am going to school as it gets warmer.

ISABEL G.

Farnham, N.B.

Dear Editor,—I am a little girl eleven years of age. My brother takes the 'Messenger,' and I enjoy reading it very much. I have two brothers and I have a pet bird. My brother has a pretty black cat, and we have two geese and twelve hens and eight cattle, and a horse, which we call Topsy.

MARY C. B.

Hanover, Conn.

Dear Editor,—My grandma has sent me the 'Northern Messenger' since I left Sherbrooke, Que., last October, and came to live in Hanover, and I enjoy reading it very much. There is no snow down here like there is in Sherbrooke, two inches is about the most we get at one time, and it only remains for about three days at a time, so we have very few sleigh rides down here. Before I left Sherbrooke I saw the Duke and Duchess. We had a Christmas tree in our Sunday school, and I got a Bible and