

(Continued from first page)

'They surely can't be going far at this time of the year.'

Mr. and Mrs. David Horner, and Mr. Horner's mother lived in the big, roomy old farmhouse that had once been bright and made merry by the presence of children. But of the four children who had been sent to gladden the old house none were left now, and Mr. and Mrs. Horner were childless. Their last child, a brown haired, dark eyed girl of six years, had been taken from them during the past year, and there would be a lonely Christmas in the old house this year.

Last year there had been a tree for their little Margaret; and all of the little cousins from the neighboring farms and from the village three miles distant had been present, and there had not been a happier, merrier house in all the country round about. This year the house would be silent; and the big south room, in which Margaret's tree had blazed so brilliantly last year would be dark, with no sound of merriment within its walls. But all was bright and beautiful where little Margaret and her brothers and sisters were, and the peace of God had come into the hearts of their parents.

It was colder the day before Christmas than it had been for some weeks; but the sun was shining, and the air was crisp and invigorating. Mr. Horner had been to the town in the afternoon, and the short day was nearly done when he reached home.

Grandma Horner went to bed promptly at half-past seven the year around. Her son's wife saw her snugly stowed away in the high, four poster bedstead with the purple calico valance. Then she came back to the family sitting-room, and said to her husband, who was sitting by the fire reading the papers he had brought from the town: 'It's a perfect night, David. The moon is nearly full, and the Christmas stars are shining as brightly as they must have shone in Bethlehem the night the Christ was born. I was thinking, while I was putting grandmother to bed that there was something that I'd like to do.'

'And what is that, Mary?' 'I'd like to walk over to the cemetery and stand by the children's graves this Christmas Eve. I've just taken a notion that I'd like to do that if you don't mind, and it's a glorious night to walk out.'

'So it is,' said Horner. 'Get ready, and I'll go with you.'

Half an hour later they were nearly a mile from home, and were going by a little old log schoolhouse that had not been used for many years, when Mrs. Horner said suddenly, 'Why, David, there's a light in the old schoolhouse.'

'So there is. Some tramps, I guess. What is that out by the door? It looks like—why, it's an old covered wagon, and there is a horse tied to the wheel.'

'Oh, it must belong to those movers grandma and I saw go by the house yesterday.'

'I didn't suppose that there were any movers around at this time of the year.' 'Well, some one went by the house yesterday, and I think that those must be the same people. What a dreary place the old schoolhouse is to spend Christmas in! O David, we ought not to let them stay and spend Christmas in such a place when our house is so large and so empty. Let us go and look in at the window.'

The night they saw touched their hearts. On an old mattress laid on the floor before the long, un-used fireplace were three little children, covered with coarse gray blankets. Some smoky-blackened cooking utensils stood near the chimney, where some logs were smouldering, the red coals lighting the dreary room dimly.

But that which touched the hearts of Mr. and Mrs. Horner more than anything else was the sight of the mother of the children, a small, wofully thin and sad-looking woman. She was tying one or two of the cheapest little wooden toys and three little sugar cakes to a little tree she had contrived to make stand erect on an old bench, which was all the furniture there was left in the room.

'O David, a Christmas tree?' whispered Mrs. Horner.

Mr. and Mrs. Horner silently retraced their steps to the road, and Mrs. Horner said, with a tremor in her voice: 'O David! What shall we do? We can't let them stay there over Christmas. O that poor, bare, little Christmas tree! How forlorn and pathetic it looked! O David, whoever and whatever they are, they shall not spend Christmas there.'

We will come over there the first thing in the morning, and take them home with us.'

'But, O David, that forlorn little Christmas tree! It makes my heart ache to think of it. Let us go home and get things enough to fill it. There are boxes and drawers of the children's things at home, and a lot of colored wax candles left over from our tree last year. I'll find a whole basket full of things, and will come back with them, and give them to that poor mother for her children's tree.'

More than an hour passed before Mr. and Mrs. Horner returned. Then they saw through the window the mother sleeping by her children.

'I wonder if we couldn't slip in and put the things on the tree ourselves,' said Mrs. Mrs. Horner. 'It would be such a surprise for them all! Let us try the door.'

It opened silently, and Mr. and Mrs. Horner stole in softly. The mother's heavy breathing was proof of the soundness of her sleep. She did not stir, and was still sleeping soundly when Mr. and Mrs. Horner stole out, leaving the tree full of toys of every description, while others were piled around the base of the tree.

'There!' said Mrs. Horner as they reached the road, 'we'll sleep sounder and sweeter ourselves for this.'

It was bitterly cold and snowing heavily when Mr. Horner hitched his horses to a big sled and started for the old school house the next morning.

'You must get them here in time for breakfast, Mrs. Horner had said, and when Grandma Horner had heard of the events of the night before, she was all a flutter with excitement.

'The poor little dears! she said, 'you get right off after them, David! I couldn't relish a bite of breakfast knowing that there was a mother and little children in the old schoolhouse such a morning as this.'

Three quarters of an hour later the excited old lady called out from the window, 'They're coming, Mary, they're coming.'

The wayfarers received a welcome that filled the eyes of the mother with tears.

'I can't thank you enough,' she said, brokenly. 'How happy my children were when they saw that tree! And how heavy my heart was when I heard the storm raging without, and realized that we were yet fifty miles from our destination, with our poor old horse's strength about gone, and scarcely any provisions or money left. But, poor as I was, I walked over to the town and bought the little things you saw me hanging on the tree for the children. They'd been talking so much about Christmas, and I couldn't bear to have them wake up and find nothing for them. They dragged in the little tree themselves. They always had one when their father was alive, and this is the first Christmas without him.'

'Your husband's dead?' asked Mrs. Horner.

'Yes, he died last March in a town four hundred miles from here, and I am on my way to my father's home, which is fifty miles from here. He was too poor to send for me, but he said that he would give me a home if I could get to him, and I have come all the way in the wagon. You couldn't tell what a heaven of rest this house seems.'

It was a safe haven of rest for the poor wayfarers for two weeks, during which time it stormed almost constantly. The poor old horse died during that time, and Mr. Horner sent the little family on their way by rail. The grateful mother's last words were, 'God bless you for the Christ spirit that filled your hearts when you came to us on Christmas Day.'

'O David, a Christmas tree?' whispered Mrs. Horner.

Mr. and Mrs. Horner silently retraced their steps to the road, and Mrs. Horner said, with a tremor in her voice: 'O David! What shall we do? We can't let them stay there over Christmas. O that poor, bare, little Christmas tree! How forlorn and pathetic it looked! O David, whoever and whatever they are, they shall not spend Christmas there.'

'No,' replied Mr. Horner; 'but I think that it may be best to let them stay where they are to-night. It is not so very cold, and the children are all asleep.'

### CHRISTMAS, 1900.

Read this Circular over Two or Three Times so that you may Thoroughly Understand its meaning.



SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE, BELLEVILLE, Dec. 1, 1900.

To Parents and Friends.

CHRISTMAS GREETING. The holidays are approaching. I wish the pupils could go home, for then those of us who are on duty, or on call for 24 hours of every day, would get a rest, but as we cannot close the school then we are expected to remain and we shall try and afford the children unalloyed pleasure at the Institution. Only Christmas Day and New Year's Day will be strictly observed as holidays—the classes will go right along as usual, with evening amusements instead of study most of the time.

If parents must have their children at Christmas or New Year's we shall offer no objection to their coming for them to the Institution; but pupils who are thus taken away will not be received again until next September.

Pupils taken home during the Christmas holidays a few years ago, brought back measles, scarlet fever, mumps, etc., and scores of children here were infected. We are not anxious for the repetition of former troubles.

We shall have a grand time on Christmas morning, when the boxes, parcels and letters are given out, and the hearts of parent would rebound with joy could they see the little ones grasping the love tokens from home. Send some inexpensive article and forward it so as to reach here not later than the 19th inst. Ship by express—charges prepaid—or through the post-office, put the name of the child, in care of the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, Belleville, on each box or parcel. Something from home is highly prized. Be prompt in this matter and do not put it off until the day before Christmas and then expect your child to be happy brooding over somebody's neglect in not sending earlier.

There are a few children who have no parents living, and some whose friends are too poor to send them anything. I feel sure they will not be forgotten by well-to-do parents and friends. If anything is enclosed for these children in boxes forwarded by parents please notify me. Small sums up to \$1.00 will be very acceptable.

We have a large Institution but every room in it is in use. Our hearts are large and we would like to be hospitable if we could, but under the circumstances we cannot furnish lodgings or meals to friends of pupils at the Institution. Parents will be welcome visitors to the classrooms during school hours. Any of them coming to the city may obtain excellent accommodation at reasonable rates at the hotels in Belleville. The following are recommended: Hotel Quante, Kyle House, Anglo-American, and Dominion.

Wishing you "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year." I am, yours faithfully,

R. Mathison

SUP'T.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Classes:—

SCHOOL HOURS FROM 8 A.M. TO 4 P.M. FROM 1 P.M. TO 3 P.M. DRAWING, P.M. ON TUESDAY AND THURSDAY. EVENING WORK CLASS, 7 P.M. TO 9 P.M. ON MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY. PUPILS FROM 7 TO 8 FOR JUNE.

### Articulation Classes

From 9 A.M. to 12 noon and from 1 P.M. to 4 P.M.

### Religious Exercises

EVERY SUNDAY. Primary pupils, senior pupils at 11 A.M. (Catholic) 12:30 P.M. immediately after which class will assemble.

EACH SCHOOL DAY the pupils are in the Chapel at 9:15 A.M. and in charge for the week will open and afterwards dismiss them. They may reach their respective homes later than 9 o'clock. In the 9 o'clock the pupils will appear after prayer will be dismissed in orderly manner.

REGULAR VISITING CLERGYMEN: Rev. T. J. Thompson, M.A., D.D., Rev. J. W. Crothers, M.A., D.D., Rev. A. H. Cornett, D.D., Rev. J. Maclean, Presbyterian, Rev. J. J. Roy, Rev. C. W. Watch, Rev. J. J. Locke.

BIBLE CLASS, Sunday afternoon, 2 P.M. to 4 P.M. National Series of Sunday School. Miss ANNA MATHISON, Teacher.

Chargemen of all Denominations are cordially invited to visit us at any time.

### Industrial Departments

SEWING ROOM Monday, Wednesday, Friday, from 11:30 to 5 P.M. PRINTING OFFICE, SHOE AND SADDLERY from 7:30 to 8:30 A.M. and 8:30 P.M. for pupils who attend school and from 12:30 to 2:30 P.M. on Saturdays, when the school will be closed at noon.

THE SEWING CLASS ROOMS are open from 10 o'clock noon, and from 1 P.M. to 3:30 P.M. for those who do not attend school on Saturday afternoons.

The Printing Office, shops and rooms to be left each day in a clean and tidy condition.

Parents are not to be excused from various Classes or Industrial Departments except on account of sickness, with a permission of the Superintendent.

Teachers, Officers and others are allowed visitors foreign to the Institution, but the performance of several duties.

### Visitors:

Persons who are interested in visiting the Institution, will be invited on any school day. No visitors are allowed on Saturdays, Sundays or Holydays. The regular chapel exercises are held on Monday afternoons. The Institution is open on ordinary school days from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M. in the afternoon as possible, they are dismissed at 3:30 o'clock.

### Admission of Children

When pupils are admitted and parents with them to the Institution they are advised not to linger and to be taking with their children. The Institution is open for all concerned, but the parent. The child will be taken care of, and if left in our charge, they will be quite happy with the Institution, in some cases in a few hours.

### Visitation:

It is not beneficial to the pupils to visit them frequently. If parents visit, however, they will be invited to the classrooms and allowed to see the faculty of seeing the general condition of the school. We cannot furnish lodgings or entertain guests at the Institution. Accommodation may be had in the Quante Hotel, Hoffman House, Quante American and Dominion Hotel, at reasonable rates.

### Clothing and Management

Parents will be good enough to send their children concerning clothing and other things to the Superintendent. The Institution will be glad to give correct knowledge will be glad to give parents and employees under the circumstances without special payment on each occasion.

### Sickness and Correspondence

In case of the serious illness of a pupil or telegram will be sent to the guardians. IN THE ABSENCE OF GUARDIANS OF PUPILS MAY BE VISITED BY ANY WELL.

All pupils who are capable of writing letters will be written by the Institution. Little ones who cannot write, stationery as possible, their wishes.

No medical preparations that are used at home, or prepared by the Institution will be allowed to be taken except with the consent and direction of the Physician of the Institution.

Parents and friends of these children are advised to call on the Superintendent against Quack Doctors who make claims and appliances for the cure of deafness. In 99% cases out of 100, the deaf and only want money for what no return. Council will give no practitioners in cases of deafness and to be guided by their advice.

R. MATHISON

Superintendent

**MONEY** TO PATENT Good Ideas may be secured by our aid. Address, THE PATENT RECORD, Baltimore, Md.

### TORONTO DEAF-MUTE ASSOCIATION.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES are held as follows every Sunday:— West End Y.M.C.A. Corner Queen Street and Dovercourt Road, at 11 A.M. And Y.M.C.A. Hall, cor Yonge and College Streets, at 10 A.M. General Central, up stairs at Broadway Hall, Spadina Ave. 10 or 12 doors south of College Street, at 3 P.M. Leaders—Care Naamithi, Brighton and others. BIBLE CLASS—Every Wednesday evening at 6 o'clock, corner Spadina Ave. and College Street, and cor Queen Street and Dovercourt Road. Lectures, etc., may be arranged if desirable. Is a A. Fraser, Secretary to the Deaf in Toronto, 25 Division Street.