

what he saw and to look at the curiosities he brought home with him. Among some of them are the rattles of rattlesnakes, a couple of cactus canes, and also some petrified wood. He also brought some things out of a volcano from New Mexico. He also brought a lot of views of the Indian village, and among them are a bridge across the Rio Grande River. The piers of this bridge are just sticks woven together and filled with stones.

EVA A. W. (Age 8.)

Cheapside, Ont.

Dear Editor,—This is the first time we have ever written to the 'Northern Messenger.' We are twin brothers and were fourteen years old last August. We get the 'Messenger' at our Sunday-school; we like to read the stories in them. We live on a farm along Lake Erie and have six horses, nineteen cattle, sixteen pigs, and twenty-six sheep, and also a large number of chickens. We have one dog, two cats and three speckled bantams for pets; the bantams are about as large as a robin and they look comical going around with their wings down. We have great times skating on the lake in the winter time. We go to Sunday-school whenever we can. Our teacher is Mr. Long. We have five sisters and three brothers. We go to school every day and like it very well. Our post-office is at Selkirk, but we go to Cheapside Sunday-school. We have a pet crow and he will say 'Hello' and 'How do you feel?' and many other things; his name is Peter.

C. AND H. E.

Port Burwell, Ont.

Dear Editor,—This is my second letter to the 'Messenger.' I get the 'Messenger' from the Methodist Sunday-school and like it very much. I think I like the Boys' and Girls' Page and the correspondence best. I am eleven years old; I go to school every day, and am in the fourth reader; my teacher's name is Mr. Bell and I like him very much. I have one sister and her name is Nina; she is nine years old.

MARY H.

Perth, Ont.

Dear Editor,—I get the 'Messenger' every Sunday in the Baptist Sunday-school. I have three sisters and four brothers; my mother died last spring and my little brother also. My second eldest sister keeps house for us and my eldest sister and two eldest brothers are working out. My two youngest brothers and myself go to school every day, and I help my sister in the mornings and evenings. I sometimes go shopping for her. Monday, Oct. 27, is my birthday; I am ten years old.

M. E. H.

Belmont, Man.

Dear Editor,—I am a little girl eight years old; my birthday is on Aug. 22. I go to school nearly every day. I have one sister and one brother; their names are Vera and Vernon. We have a wild canary in a cage. We live near Pelican Lake. My grandma lives on the bank of the lake. I have only one grandma and one grandpa. I am in the second book. My teacher's name is Miss E. E. Kinley; I like her very much. We live two miles from the school. We have four cats, one dog, one pig and a colt. My mamma is a widow, and we live on a farm. My cousin is writing this for me.

GLADYS W.

Perm, Ont.

Dear Editor,—I live on a farm of 250 acres which my grandfather cleared fifty years ago. He was a local preacher and he assessed and collected the taxes in the township of Mulmur for thirty years; he died at the age of seventy-four years. We have six horses and twenty-six head of cattle. We have a De Laval cream separator, and mamma has made over 1,000 pounds of butter this summer. I have three brothers and one sister, and I am the youngest; I have fifty-four cousins, and I have twin cousins. My youngest brother, my sister and I go to school; we have five lots to go. I will be eight years old on Dec. 17.

SUSIE K.

## HOUSEHOLD.

### Not to be Eccentric.

Eccentric people are never normal; you have no need to be either 'queer' or unpleasing to the eyes of your friends in order to carry out your own convictions as to what is preferable and what is wise in what you do or wear; you only want to take a little more pains, to keep from critical comment from any sensible person, and to be quite ready to let the others pass.

A young girl in a great shop who had gained the nickname of 'Patty Prim,' because of her rigidly plain gowns, astonished her comrades one morning last summer by coming to the help of some of the Cuban teachers who were visiting in Boston. The unfortunate foreigners could not make known their wants intelligibly, and were much distressed. 'Patty Prim,' who was standing near, addressed them timidly in very good Spanish. The eager joy of the would-be purchasers was great, for they were in search only of necessary things. A 'floor-walker' listened with surprise to the easy conversation of the young saleswoman and reported the incident to the superintendent. With a doubled salary, henceforth 'Patty' was made interpreter, and proved that she also knew enough French to help in that language.

Gradually her comrades discovered that all the money that she could possibly save had been used to buy the necessary and always expensive foreign text-books and in paying for tuition. To-day, the harvest she gains from following out her own steadfast purposes is the rent of a lovely little home for her family and the support of her pet brother at a business college.

### Helpful Suggestions.

Shoes which have become hard from constant wetting can be made perfectly pliable by two or three thorough soakings of kerosene.

Sometimes, especially when an oily fish, such as mackerel or salmon, has been used, the fishy flavor and smell will cling to knives and forks in spite of soap and water. Cut a lemon in two and rub it over the cutlery. Wash and dry; the fish smell will then vanish.

Clothes lines and pegs should be kept in a bag. A line can be cleaned by boiling in strong soda water. Hang out, and rub dry.

The French cook uses olive oil with discretion and also with great effect in many ways of which the American housekeeper is ignorant. In particular is its assistance important in the concoction of certain soups and sauces. A teaspoonful of oil, for example, to every quart of split pea, potato or other soup, lacking fatty stock, added just before the soup is taken from the fire, greatly increases its flavor and richness. The oil, too, may be used as a substitute for butter in compounding a brown or white sauce. Any kind of cold meat that is to be creamed or recooked in any way is improved by having oil poured over it, in the proportion of a tablespoon to a cupful of the meat, at least half an hour before the latter is put in the saucepan.

### Selected Recipes

Fairy Gingerbread.—One cupful of butter, two of sugar, four of pastry flour, three-fourths teaspoonful soda, one teaspoonful of ginger. Beat the butter to a cream, add gradually the sugar; when light, add ginger and one cup of milk, in which the soda has been dissolved, and then the flour. Beat or mix well. Turn baking-pans upside down or use sheets. Grease them, and spread the mixture

over the pans very thin. Bake in a moderate oven until brown. While hot, cut into squares and slip from the pan. This must be spread on the sheet or pan as thin as tissue paper, and must be cut the moment it comes from the oven. They may be rolled as well.

Chocolate Cake.—One and one-half cups sugar, one-half cup butter, one-half cup sour milk, one-half cake chocolate, one-half cup warm water, yolks of four eggs, whites of two eggs, one teaspoonful soda, two cups flour, one-half teaspoonful vanilla. Cream the butter and sugar, add the beaten yolks of the eggs; the sour milk, in which half a teaspoonful of the soda has been beaten; the chocolate dissolve in the warm water and beat well. Sift the remaining half teaspoonful of soda with the flour and add to the butter mixture together with the vanilla. Lastly, fold in the whites beaten to a stiff froth. Bake in shallow round pans in a quick oven and spread with lemon icing.

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