

THE OLD YEAR.

NOTHING year has gone,
With swift and noiseless tread,
Winter and spring have glided on,
Summer and autumn sped—
Each season with its joys and pain;
And they will never come again.

I mourn its wasted time,
If I could live it o'er,
Its sad mistakes I'd try to shun,
Its wrongs would do no more.
But, no; the loss none can repair,
'Tis gone forever, the Old Year.

This only can I do:
Be sorry for the past,
And at my loving Saviour's feet
My weary burden cast.
He will blot out sin's crimson stain,
And strengthen me to try again.

And as a bright New Year
Comes with its hope and joy,
I'll seek to live aright, and all
My hours for God employ;
And this New Year will try to live
That it a record fair may give.

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Pleasant Hours:

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK:
Rev. W. H. WTHROW, D.D., Editor.

TORONTO, JANUARY 9, 1886.

\$250,000 FOR MISSIONS.

MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

1. OBJECT—To "preach the Gospel to every creature"
2. FIELD—All the Dominion—Newfoundland—Bermuda—Japan. "The field is the world"
3. OPENINGS—There are urgent calls for more missionaries among the Indians, and in the New Settlements, and Japan.
4. COST—The readjustment of the work consequent upon union, caused an increase in the number of Missions. The effort to sustain the brethren labouring on them, without absolute suffering, has entailed an indebtedness of \$21,000. To meet this year's expenditure—on a very low scale of allowances—an advance of one-third, at least, over last year's givings is imperatively necessary.
In view of all these facts we beseech you
5. GIVE—Cheerfully—Prayerfully—Liberal—"As God hath prospered you."
6. PAY—Promptly (at the Missionary Meeting if possible).—In any case, not later than end of March next.

7. "Whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?"—1 John iii. 17.
One cent a day for each member would yield \$640 000 a year.

OUR SUNDAY-SCHOOL PUBLICATIONS.

THE following letter on this subject has been received:—I have just received some sample Sunday-school papers from our Book-room in Toronto, and a few days previously some samples from an American publication I consider our own papers far superior to the others, both in "make up" and "got up," that is, in the matter they contain, and the material and workmanship of the paper. In the editing of our Sunday-school papers, Dr. Withrow shows his eminent fitness for the position, in the variety, adaptability, and general usefulness of the interesting matter furnished in their pages. And our energetic Book Steward equally shows his qualifications for the position he holds, in the very elegant manner in which he gets out the papers.

Then the price, too, of our own papers, considering their size, is very low. I have often compared them with others, and find none cheaper.

Now, it does seem to me just carrying the thing a little too far for the agent of these American papers to send us samples of their papers enclosing another bundle, on the wrapper of which is printed the modest request to "Kindly hand to the Sunday-school superintendent." No, thanks; I respectfully decline the honour of acting as sub-agent in introducing these papers into our schools in preference to our own. Happily we are well furnished in this particular.

A LOYAL METHODIST.

HOLIDAY BOOKS.

ONE of the very handsomest holiday or birthday gift-books that we have seen is "Our Little Ones and the Nursery," by William T. Adams (Oliver Opt'c) Small 4to., pp. 384. Estes Lauroat, Boston. Price in illuminated covers, \$1.75. It consists of illustrated stories and poems for the little folk, by the best writers of juvenile literature. Its most striking feature, however, is its 370 beautiful pictures, not old and worn-out cuts, but new ones, made expressly for this book. It will make the dark days of winter bright with beauty. The angel singing the Christmas hymn, on page 29, is but a type of the many exquisite pictures here contained.

"Chatterbox for 1885," same publishers, is a little larger and a little cheaper. Price in boards \$1.25. This is an authorized reprint of the famous English "Chatterbox." It is intended for somewhat older scholars than "Our Little Ones," and has over 200 full page engravings by Harrison Weir and other famous English artists. It has a couple of continued stories, and no end of shorter sketches of boy and girl life. These two books will furnish a fund of wholesome winter reading for any family of young folk. For sale at the Methodist Book Rooms, Toronto, Montreal, and Halifax, and at most book stores.

CANADIAN VS FOREIGN S. S. PAPERS.

AFTER examining specimens of our Sunday-school periodicals, the Toronto *Globe* publishes the following opinion:

"It is a ground for patriotic pride that Canadian schools need not send to the United States or any other country for illustrated papers, or any other Sunday-school supplies. The handsome papers published by the Rev. Wm. Briggs, Toronto, and edited by the Rev. W. H. Withrow, F.R.S.C., have been declared by those who have compared them with American publications claiming to be the "cheapest and best," to be "cheaper than the cheapest and better than the best." PLEASANT HOURS, *Home and School* for older scholars, and *Happy Days* and *Sunbeam* for younger ones, are, for excellence of illustration and contents, a credit to both publisher and editor. The same house issues a variety of lesson leaflets, quarterlies, monthlies, and, in fact, everything that schools require."

RESOLUTIONS FOR 1886.

I WILL obey my parents in all things.

I will be kind to my brothers and sisters and friends.

I will speak pleasant and not angry words to every one.

I will study my lessons every day without being told.

I will learn the Golden Text every Sunday.

I will ask Jesus every night and morning to help me to love him and to keep these resolutions.

To resolve, on New Year's Day and on birthdays, to live better is a good thing. If you have made resolutions in the past, and have not kept them, ask the Saviour to forgive you, and try again. When you were learning to walk, if you stumbled and fell you did not lie on the floor and determine never to try again, but you jumped up and persevered in the effort. So, if you fall sometimes as you try to walk in the straight and narrow way, you must not be discouraged, but must look up to Him who alone can keep you, and try again.

Littell's Living Age. The numbers of *The Living Age* for the weeks ending Dec. 5th and 12th have the following contents: Dawn of Creation and of Worship, by Rt Hon W. E. Gladstone, *Nineteenth Century*; The Great Lama Temple at Peking, *Gentleman's Magazine*; The Wealys at Epworth, *Longman's Magazine*; A Retrospect, *Fortnightly*; Grace, *Spectator*, Culture and Science, *Macmillan's Magazine*; and many other interesting articles.

For fifty-two numbers of sixty-four large pages each (for more than 3,300 pages a year) the subscription price (\$8) is low; while for \$9 we will send *The Living Age* and *Methodist Magazine* for a year, both postpaid.

"PLEASE to give me something, sir!" says an old woman. "I had a blind child. He was my only means of subsistence: and the poor boy has recovered his sight!"



PARSEE MERCHANT.

PARSEE MERCHANT.

THE Parsees are a very ancient race in India. They are descendants of the ancient fire-worshippers, and still observe their strange rites. They are among the most successful and wealthy merchants of Calcutta and Bombay. One of their strange customs is that of exposing their dead to be devoured by vultures, in great structures called Towers of Silence, erected near the cities. This cut is one of many illustrating our Indian Empire, its cities, its palaces, its people, Indian missions, etc., which will appear in the *Methodist Magazine* during the year.

JAPAN ILLUSTRATED.

THE Rev C. S. EBY, M.A., returned missionary of our Church from Japan, gave a most interesting lecture on his mission field, for the benefit of the Woman's Missionary Society, Toronto. A daily paper thus refers to it: "Those who spent last evening in the lecture-room of the Metropolitan Church were given a golden opportunity of gaining an extensive knowledge of Japan and the Japanese, by means of dissolving views and explanations from Rev. C. S. Eby, who has been labouring for several years in the mission fields of Japan. The views embraced everything of interest connected with the work, habits, and peculiarities of the people, together with the natural beauty, principal products, and industries of the country." We hope that many of our people, both old and young, will have an opportunity of hearing this lecture, and seeing the views.

THE MISSIONARY OUTLOOK.

WE cordially commend the *Missionary Outlook*, edited by the Rev Dr. Sutherland, Missionary Secretary of the Methodist Church, to all our readers. They will find that its monthly visits will keep alive missionary sympathies in their hearts, and will give full information on missionary topics, especially those connected with our own Church.

FAITH is to believe what we do not see, and the reward of this faith is to see what we believe.