

Correspondence

HINTS TO LETTER-WRITERS.

Dear Little Letter-writers,—We thank you for your many good wishes for the New Year, and for your bright letters. Now, I want to speak about two things we cannot undertake, and you wise little people will understand that we have good reasons. First of all, though we are glad to see thoughtful little paragraphs from our readers expressive of noble sentiment, you must not be disappointed if these do not appear in the 'Messenger.' Secondly, we think it wiser not to give addresses of other little girls and boys in our columns, so you had better ask those whose letters you found interesting to write again to the 'Messenger.' We have had some very interesting letters lately. You are finding out, I think, that because one girl says something in her letter, that that is not a good reason why another should say it. For instance, just think what a lack of variety we would have if you all told how many sisters and brothers and pets and teachers you had and the number of each creature that inhabits a farm-yard and a catalogue of your studies (without a single remark on the objects of your different lists),—do you think you would like to read them as well as the descriptions of places some of the letters give us, or the stories of adventure which the young subscriber has been through or knows about? Perhaps this will explain why some of the letters of the dearest little writers are not always published. But whatever you do don't be discouraged; write again, whether you see your letter or not.

Correspondence Editor.

N.B.—Thank you, Etta MacLennan, for that Christmas card.—Ed.

Lantz, N.S.

Dear Editor,—I have never written to the 'Messenger' before. I am a little girl nine year old, and I live in the country. I have been trying to get subscribers for the 'Messenger,' and I thought you would like to know about some of the little boys who are getting the paper. One little boy in our school, my age, cut his knee with a hatchet and has been quite sick, but is well enough to read now. Another little boy fell the next week at school and broke his leg; he will not be able to go to school for some time and he wants the 'Messenger' to read. I have some little cousins in Mexico who are far worse off, as their dear mamma died last week, so I am sending them the 'Messenger' to help comfort them. The paper is also going to a little girl in the United States whose mamma has been sick for a long time, but is getting better now. I hope they will all enjoy the paper as much as I do.

HAZEL B. L.

(We think you are a most kind little girl and have worked well. Thank you.—Ed.)

Moncton, N.B.

Dear Editor,—Moncton, where I live, is situated on the bend of the Petitcodiac River. It is a very pretty place, and has many fine buildings, and some of our newly-erected stores are as fine as in any of the leading cities in Canada. We are building a new hospital, the corner-stone of which was laid on Oct. 29 by the Lieutenant-Governor of the province. Moncton is a railway centre with headquarters for the Intercolonial Railway trains coming from Montreal, St. John, and Halifax. The railway shops and general offices are situated here, which give employment to a large number of men. We have a cotton factory and a large woollen mill, where they take the wool and make it into cloth and the cloth into suits for men and boys. I go to school every day. I have only missed one day in two and a half years. I take music lessons. I am on my sixth quarter. I like the 'Messenger' very much. I had two volumes of it bound, and I

would advise other boys and girls to do the same; they make such a nice book and it is such a nice way of keeping them. I have a pet canary; he is twelve years old; he is a very nice singer.

HARRY C. M. (Age 13.)

Black Rock, Big Bras D'Or.

Dear Editor,—I am a little girl twelve years old and I live in a lighthouse. It is very pretty in summer, but cold in winter. We see lots of vessels and steamers passing. I have three sisters and two brothers. One of my brothers was killed at the steel works in Sydney. He was a good boy and is in heaven. My oldest brother came home from the Klondike about a month ago and we were all so glad to see him. He was away four years, and he brought us lots of presents. We have no school here this winter. I have twin sisters; they are going to school, one in Sydney and one at the Rev. Mr. Drummond's, who is our minister. I would have been in school, too, only I was sick, but I am getting better.

A. J. M.

Weston, Ont.

Dear Editor,—As I am interested in your paper I thought I would write and describe this village. It is about eight miles from Toronto, on the Humber River, of about two thousand five hundred of a population. It is connected with Toronto by an electric railway. Weston possesses four grocery stores, one drug-store, a post-office and a bake-shop, of which my father is proprietor; a very good public school and a good High School. My sister and I go to the High School. We passed our entrance examinations last summer. Hilarie was eleven and I was thirteen years old. I saw a letter from Miss Brown. I am well acquainted with her; she lives across the street from us.

RUTH MAC. (Age 13.)

Greenfield, Ont.

Dear Editor,—We only have Sunday-school in summer; there are only twenty-two scholars on the roll. My papa is superintendent in our school. Our church is called Greenfield Presbyterian Church and is only a branch of Dunvegan congregation. We have preaching every two weeks, the Rev. Mr. Gollan, of Dunvegan, and the Rev. Mr. Leitch, of St. Elmo, preaching alternately. But for all it is only a branch it is a very snug little church. I was in Montreal three years ago and I saw quite a number of things. I saw two monkeys and I did not like them at all. I went into all the great dry goods stores. I did not stay long that time, but hope to go soon again. My papa was visiting his brothers and sisters in North Dakota; he went via Winnipeg and Deloraine. We live on a farm a mile and a half from Greenfield. I have two brothers and no sisters.

CASSIE ANN K. (Age 11.)

Vankleek Hill, Ont.

Dear Editor,—I have taken the 'Northern Messenger' since I was five years old and now I am nine years old. We all like the 'Messenger' very well. Papa reads it all the time, and it is the best paper we take. We live on a high hill in a very pretty place. The school-house is built on our place. I have only to run down the hill a little piece and I am at school. I have only one brother younger than I, and we both go to school. Papa is a farmer. We have two sugar-bushes on our farm. We have a big orchard. We had a lot of apples this year, and also a good crop. My brother Thomas has a pet cat and I have a pet dog. He goes with me after the cows when I come home from school. I have to help papa, and mamma has no person to help her but us.

JOHN O. McD.

Hicksvale, Assa.

Dear Editor,—I am going to write and try to tell a little about the country I live in. This is a prairie country, and about twenty miles north of here there is some bluff where father gets the wood. It is very small wood. Here in the summer the prairie is covered with wild flowers. The roses are the most plentiful, while the orange lilies grow in abundance around

the creeks; and there are ferns also. Around here it is pretty hilly, but farther south it is very level. This is a farming country. Off ten acres we get four hundred and nine bushels of wheat, but we had other wheat that did not yield so good as that. My father owns four hundred and eighty acres of land, three hundred and twenty being light land and one hundred and sixty being heavy land. My father set out three hundred and fifty maple trees in our garden two years ago, and they are doing nicely. We have no minister at present, but when we have one we have service every two weeks at eleven o'clock. In summer we have Sunday-school every Sunday. We always look forward for the 'Messenger's' weekly visit.

FLORENCE R.

Chalk River, Ont.

Dear Editor,—I live on a farm about a mile from the village. I have two sisters and one brother. Chalk River is small. It consists of a few scattered houses, churches, school-house and boarding-houses. The school-house has two rooms and has two teachers; their names are Miss Dewar and Miss Brock. There are four churches, Presbyterian, English, Lutheran and Roman Catholic. The Presbyterian church is about one mile east of the village, but there is a mission hall in the village and the service is held in it every Sunday evening and prayer meeting every Wednesday evening. The Sunday-school is also held in it every Sunday morning. There are quite a few scholars, although some come from a long distance. There are four teachers. I am in the Bible-class and it is taught by the superintendent, Mr. Dumouchell. Our minister is unable to attend the Sabbath-school, as he is always away on Sunday mornings at other preaching stations; his name is the Rev. G. D. Campbell, son of the Rev. Dr. Campbell, of Perth. The Ladies' Aid Society also hold their meetings in the Mission Hall the first Thursday of every month. The hall looks ever so much better since it was painted by the Ladies' Aid Society. The ladies bought the paint and painted it themselves with the aid of two or three gentlemen.

LIZZIE A. L. (Age 13.)

(A well-written letter.—Ed.)

Nanton, Alberta.

Dear Editor,—I see some very nice letters in the 'Northern Messenger,' and I thought I would like to write one, too, and tell you how we like this country. We came here last spring, and there was only a station, but now there is a store, a hotel a livery stable, a blacksmith shop, a butcher shop, a lumber yard, and four dwelling-houses. We are only one-half of a mile from Nanton and Nanton is 50 miles from McLeod and 56 miles from Calgary. We used to live at Oak Lake, Manitoba, but we left there because the country was too cold. This is a very pretty place where we live. We are only eight miles from the Foot Hills and forty miles from the Rocky Mountains, and we can see the snowy tops of them all the year round. There are thousands of cattle running over the prairie around here. My papa is a farmer and owns three-quarters of a section of land. My brother has sent in the Temperance Pledge-Roll. We did our very best, but we only got thirteen, as this is a new place and there isn't many settlers here.

LILY MAY S. (Age 11.)

(You worked very well.—Ed.)

Owen Sound, Ont.

Dear Editor,—I go to school every day when I am well. I am in the third reader. I go to Sunday-school, too, and like it very much, but don't like the day-school as well. I have two brothers both younger than myself. Their names are Harry and Lawrence. Lawrence is seven years old and Harry is nine years, while I am ten years. For pets I have a dog and a cat. The dog's name is 'York,' but the cat has no name but 'Puss.' I was at my grandmother's for three weeks in the summer holidays, and I had a very pleasant time. She lives about half a mile from Mount Forest, and the railway runs by