

DECEMBER.

We begin this month with a debt of \$22.40 for general expences. First week only \$15.93 was received, and on the 15th inst. the first instalment of the mortgage on the Emma Street property became due.

Dec. 8th.—\$5 from Pembroke, Ont. ; \$10 from "Sympathizer," Brockville; Anon. \$10; Mrs. G. L. 20; "Three Little Sisters" Cot, \$20; "Alpha" Cot, \$18; "Faith" Cot, \$37.50; Mrs. S., \$10; C. B. & Co., \$5; Duchess Street Sunday School, \$12.55. This with other sums received, enabled us to pay *on the 15th* the \$54 on the mortgage, the \$22.40 we owed, and allowed us money for current expenses.

The last week in the year brought us \$777.75. Out of this we repaid the amounts of \$40 and \$50 that we had borrowed from the Building Fund, paid for our telephone, met all our general expenses, and had a balance on hand at the end of the year, of \$524.74.

As Christmas drew near, all hands were busily employed in the endeavor to throw over the hearts of the little ones an additional bit of sunshine; and our own hearts were cheered as we saw it beaming forth from glad faces all around when the day came.

The same kind friends who for the last two years have contributed the whole of the Christmas dinner, were on hand, and willingly waited on the "Lilliput lodgers." The same nimble ladies' fingers of last year, decorated the Christmas tree, which was soon laden with presents from numerous friendly quarters; and, to add to the enjoyments, Santa Claus was forthcoming in a kindly lad who personated the ancient gift purveyor, and distributed the bounties, and who was found by one curious and anxious little patient, who tried his reality by the test of a touch, to be "real after all," and so was taken back to his bed contented. Amidst the decorations hung three patch-work quilts, the handiwork of the children of Victoria Street Public School, and which they presented to their little friends as a mark of their sympathy to sufferers who know not now the great blessings of youthful health: and so the day fared pleasantly, and took its place amid the many numbered years of the past.

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