

the captured towns and districts; and this record has been discovered and lately deciphered by learned scholars, thus giving new proofs of the accuracy of the Bible record. (See "Rawlinson's Hist. Evidences" p. 109.)

Idols in the heart. Travellers tell us of a tribe in Africa so given to idolatry that they fill their huts and hovels with so many idols that they do not even leave room for their families. How many men there are who fill their hearts so full of the idols of sin that there is no room in them for any love to God or any regard for his law!

SCRIPTURE ENIGMAS.

We propose to give this year a series of selected Scripture Enigmas which will set our young folks at work searching their Bibles. We will give one or more in every number but not the answers, as we hope to receive at the end of the year a complete list of these from all who have been successful in finding them out. We will publish the names of all who send in correct answers to all the questions, and we hope none will be discouraged in trying because some of the puzzles are difficult.

If at first you don't succeed, Try, try, try again.

I.

In the water, in the air, and in the busy brain, Busy once, but nevermore to hate or love again; One of five, all like itself, in deadly deed united, And yet delivering those in whom the Lord of Hosts delighted.

II.

- 1. A man who made a wretched choice.
2. A man raised up as a deliverer.
3. A woman beautiful and well-favored.
4. A woman called "a mother in Israel."
5. A king of Egypt who besieged Jerusalem.
6. A king of Israel rebuked by a prophet.
7. A queen who made a great feast.
8. A queen who saved her nation.
9. A city famous in the early history of the world.
10. A city in Asia mentioned in the New Testament.
11. A letter which commences no name in the Bible.
12. A letter of the earliest-named place in the Bible.
13. A nation often at war with the Jews.
14. A nation that had wars with Assyria.
15. A place mentioned in Paul's last voyage.
16. A place visited by Paul and Barnabas.
17. A mountain possessed by the Edomites.
18. A mountain where the Lord spake to Israel.

The initials give words spoken in a time of great peril.

GREETING.

With this number the MESSENGER enters on the twelfth year of its existence; but it does not feel its age—in fact, is much livelier and younger than ever before. It hopes to continue carrying its message twice every month—as it has been doing in the past—very, very many years yet. If any one were to follow it on its errands he would have a wide experience ere many weeks. With it he would enter the grand mansions of the cities and the poorest hovel, perhaps a few blocks away; but its words, the same in each case, would be equally treasured, though perhaps from widely different reasons. He would have to travel with it to British Columbia, England and Newfoundland; to the Northern States, where it is teaching its lessons in Sunday-schools; and to the Southern States, where the Freedmen are beginning to recognize it as belonging especially to them. In the farmer's cosy house, the miller's cottage, north, south, east or west, it is the same, and it is equally well received.

This appears strange at first sight, but the reason is plain. Good thoughts, good deeds, good acts, good lives, good influences and good intentions are not local in their nature. Christianity leaps over the bounds set up by notions, customs or prejudices. Its message is efficacious wherever and by whomsoever received. That it may be the mission of the NORTHERN MESSENGER to carry Christian words of instruction, direction and comfort, more largely and more efficaciously than ever before is our desire.

THIS YEAR.

Two years ago we asked that the circulation of the MESSENGER, then fifteen thousand, be doubled in twelve months. It was doubled a few days after the expiration of that time. Eleven months ago we asked that its circulation of thirty thousand be doubled in a year. The circulation is now fifty thousand, with a month in which to obtain the other ten thousand. We would like to send sixty thousand copies of this number to regular subscribers. We can do it with the help of all our friends who think that the spread of the MESSENGER would result in good. One new subscriber each would give us a circulation of a hundred thousand. It could be obtained by a very little labor if the work evenly divided. Will each subscriber try to send a new subscription with his or her own, and thus double the good the MESSENGER may now perform. The paper that the MESSENGER is printed on is to be improved at once, and much greater attention will henceforth be paid to the engravings. This is the result of last year's increase in circulation. If the same percentage of increase is continued, many improvements we dare not now mention lest circumstances should not justify them, will be made.

A CURIOSITY.

We purpose issuing our DOMINION CALENDAR this year in the form of a sixteen-page pamphlet, each page a quarter the size of this one. One of these pages will represent a full page of the WEEKLY WITNESS reduced by photolithography so as to be all contained in it. Although the type is almost infinitesimal, it is clearly legible to sharp eyes. Another page will contain engravings of six or eight most prominent Canadians reduced with the reading matter in the same manner, while a third will contain portraits of Disraeli, Gladstone and other most prominent European statesmen. This calendar will be a marvel in its way and will be preserved as a curiosity. A copy will be enclosed in each of the WITNESS publications mailed at the New Year.

THE PRIZES.

It is wonderful how many applications we receive every day for copies of our papers to be used in canvassing for the skates. Each day brings ten, twenty, or twenty-five, and sometimes even more. Already about thirty pair of skates have been forwarded to those who sent their ten dollars in new subscriptions to the WITNESS publications, and such answers as the following have been received in reply. This is from a Nova Scotian boy:—"I received the skates and your letters containing the commission offered to agents, and I will go to work at once to canvass. How many subscribers do you think it would take to get the \$50 prize? * * * It did not do me much good in a business point of view to get the skates first. Only they are good skates, and if I waited till I canvassed for the prize it would be almost too late to be getting skates. When I got mine, the young fellows when they saw them and I told them where I got them, went to work to canvass for the purpose of getting a pair too. Your paper (speaking of the WEEKLY WITNESS) is so good and cheap that it is no trouble to get subscribers where the people have a little common-sense and a little money. I never hear it said that the paper is not good or too dear, and if they don't subscribe it is because they have not the wherewith. I get every encouragement from religious people and ministers—my father is one of the latter class." A Toronto boy writes:—"I send my measure for the Eureka Club skates, which are the best in Toronto, and all the boys are trying to get them." Another Toronto boy, who also has not received his skates, gives his opinion from hearsay:—"They say the Eureka skates are the best in the city." Several grown-up people have received them, and the unanimous opinion so far is that they are splendid.

There are plenty of skates left yet, and we would like to send a pair on the conditions advertised to every subscriber to the MESSENGER. The earlier the amounts are sent in, the sooner the skates will be on the feet of those who win them. If any of our workers who find that they cannot get the whole of the amount necessary to obtain the skates, but having advanced some way towards them, send us a letter stating they have worked very hard but were unsuccessful, and con-

taining the amount collected, they will receive a present in return in accordance with the amount sent. Christmas week should be a grand harvest time for skates.

THE TESTIMONIAL FUND.

TO THE FRIENDS AND WELL-WISHERS OF THE "MONTREAL WITNESS."

The Executive Committee appointed to receive and apply the contributions that might be made to the MONTREAL WITNESS TESTIMONIAL FUND, beg very respectfully to inform the contributors, that up to the present date there are 1,135 subscribers, whose total subscriptions in Cash and Guarantee Notes amount to \$5,169.59, of which \$2,607.97 have been paid in to the Treasurer. The balance (\$2,561.62) is mainly represented by subscriptions which are being paid by instalments.

The Committee are disappointed that there has not been a more general or prompt response. They desire to call the attention of subscribers who are paying by instalments, to the importance of doing so in strict compliance with the dates as they fall due. It is hoped persons who have not yet availed themselves of opportunities to subscribe (and it is believed there are very many such throughout the Dominion), may see the propriety of doing so without delay,—as the Committee must be guided to a decision respecting the disposition of the Fund, so soon as is possible, consistently with the conditions of subscriptions. It is hoped that the many friends of the WITNESS will give this suggestion their consideration, and that they will, without delay, spontaneously express themselves in the substantial manner which they may have probably deferred, through misapprehension as to the necessity for restricting the movement within ordinary limits as to time.

Subscriptions may be sent to Charles Alexander, Esq., 389 Notre Dame street; to the Secretary, at the Board of Trade Office; or to the WITNESS Office.

HUGH McLENNAN, Chairman. CHARLES ALEXANDER, Treasurer, WM. J. PATTERSON, Secretary. MONTREAL, Dec. 10, 1876.

THE BEST CHANCE YET.

CASH PRIZES

TO BE COMPETED FOR;

CASH COMMISSIONS, AND SKATES FOR EVERYBODY.

THE PRIZES.

- 1. To the person sending the largest amount of money on or before 15th January as payment in advance for our publications..... \$50
2. To the person sending in the second largest amount..... 40
3. To do do third do 30
4. To do do fourth do 20
5. To do do fifth do 15
6. To do do sixth do 10
7. To do do seventh do 5
8. To do do eighth do 5
9. To do do ninth do 5
10. To do do tenth do 5
11. To do do eleventh do 5
12. To do do twelfth do 5

All subscription lists sent in for these prizes must be marked.

"IN COMPETITION,"

or they cannot be recognized in the count for prizes.

READ ON.

Every competitor who send in NEW subscriptions to the amount of \$10 deducting no commissions therefrom, will, almost immediately on the receipt of the amount, receive a

PAIR OF EUREKA CLUB SKATES,

so that every competitor will be sure of a good prize. On all amounts sent in for subscriptions above \$10, on the whole amount, if the skates are not desired he may receive a cash commission. A circular specifying the

CASH COMMISSIONS

on our publications will be sent to all competitors on receipt of the first letter from each bona fide worker.

DIRECTIONS.

Mark all letters for prizes "in competition." Write the names and addresses of subscribers and amounts distinctly, so that every subscriber will be sure to get his paper promptly.

Send in the subscriptions at least one a week, so that each new subscriber who receives his paper may recommend it to others.

Always state distinctly whether the subscriptions are new or renewal, and what paper they are intended for, WITNESS, DOMINION MONTHLY or MESSENGER.

Go to work at once, canvas thoroughly, calling on every one who wants such papers as you have to show, gain your skates for the first ice, and then follow on for the \$50 prize.

Remember that subscriptions for the NEW DOMINION MONTHLY and WITNESS count the prizes as well as those for the MESSENGER.

YOUNG LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, GIRLS AND BOYS,

the skate you will get when you send in your \$10 subscriptions, is not a common skate, but the "Eureka Club Skate."

Look at it.



It is held to be the best and really the only perfect Self-fastening Skate manufactured. It differs a little from other self-fastening skates as it never leaves the skater and goes alone. Always ready for any size of boot. No setting of clamps; no pieces to lose. Impossible to jump it off your boot. Put on and take off in a moment without the least trouble.

When you complete your \$10, send the length of your boot sole, from heel to toe, in paper, and a pair of Eureka Club Skates to fit you will be sent almost immediately.

JOHN DOUGALL & SON, Montreal.

TO OUR FRIENDS IN THE UNITED STATES.

From the impossibility of sending skates by parcel post to the United States, we cannot promise our friends there, who send us \$10 in new subscriptions, the Eureka Club Skate, but are making arrangements to provide them with the best kind of skates obtainable in New York.

— We will send sample copies of the MESSENGER to any person desiring them for canvassing purposes, on application.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

EPPS' COCOA.—Grateful and Comforting.—Made simply with boiling water or milk. Each packet is labelled thus:—James Epps & Co, Homeopathic Chemists, 48 Threadneedle street, and 170, Piccadilly, London, England.

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IS A PAPER FOR THE TIMES AND PEOPLE.

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JOHN DOUGALL & SON, Montreal.

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