

young lady don't take her wine now. She says she's become a teetotaler." He said, "If you please, miss, how long have you been one?" "Just an hour and a-half," I replied. They gave me a most tremendous cheer, and a carpenter pulled out a large pocket-book, and said, "Who will back up the young lady?" And he got twenty-five names of new total abstainers; and in, I think, about a year and a-half I was summoned to receive a clock from the men who had become abstainers from the influence of the coffee-room, and there were five hundred names on the list of those who presented me with my clock. I must say I never regretted my decision.—Christian Herald.

Easter Puzzle Answer.

'Remove far from me vanity . . . feed me with food convenient for me.'—Prov. xxx., 8.

'As the cold of snow in the time of harvest so is'—Prov. xxv., 13.

'Lay up . . . treasures in heaven.'—Matt. vi., 20.

'Unto Adam . . . did the Lord God make coats of skins.'—Gen. iii., 21.

'And the servant told Isaac all things that he had done.'—Gen xxiv., 66.

'It is better to die than to live.'—Jonah iv., 8.

'In an even balance.'—Job xxxi., 6.

'So run that ye may obtain.'—I. Cor. ix., 24.

'Peter . . . departed, wondering in himself at that, etc.'—Luke xxiv., 12.

'Thou art the Christ,' etc.—Matt. xvi., 16.

'Whosoever, therefore, shall break,' etc.—Matt. v., 19.

'He told me all,' etc.—John iv., 39.

'How can these things be?'—John iii., 9.

'Ended his work which he had made.'—Gen. ii., 2.

'They . . . went down alive into the pit,' etc.—Num. x., 33.

Ans.—'For as in Adam all men die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.'—I. Cor. xv., 22.

I Create Evil.

A lady writes that this statement in Isaiah xiv. 7 troubles her. The verse reads: 'I form the light and create darkness; I make peace and create evil: I the Lord do all these things.' Is not this equivalent to saying that God is the author of sin? I answer, Isaiah is writing here about Cyrus. (See verse i.). Cyrus was a Persian. The Persians, taught by Zoroaster, believed in two gods, the one good and the other evil. These two gods they thought were in perpetual conflict, and hence there was an alternation of light and darkness in nature, and in prosperity and adversity in the lives of men. But the Jewish prophet proclaimed, and emphasized the fact that there is only one God who made and controls all things. He is the God of the day and of the night; the God of health and of sickness; the God who sends sunshine and showers; the God who causes drought and barrenness. The reference here is not to moral evil or sin, but to suffering, or that which causes it. The sons of Jacob said in regard to Joseph: 'An evil beast hath devoured him.' Job said: 'Shall a man receive good at the hand of the Lord, and not receive evil also?' God said to the Hebrews again and again, by his Prophets 'I will send evil upon you.' We speak in the same way. Evil often means trouble, misfortune, suffering, without reference to the moral character of the sufferer.

Evil is contrasted with peace, as light is with darkness. Now, the Hebrew word translated 'peace,' as every scholar knows, means, primarily, health, soundness, prosperity. This contrast shows that Isaiah is not writing about sin, but about the result of sin. Men sin against God, and then he withholds from them his favor—the blessings of peace—and sends evil upon them.

Thus it is evident that Isaiah is not here

solving the problem of the origin of sin. He is only telling us that God, in both nature and providence, reigns supreme, and reigns alone.—C. E. B., in 'Herald and Presbyter.'

Sample Copies.

Any subscriber who would like to have specimen copies of 'Northern Messenger' sent to friends can send the names with addresses and we will be pleased to supply them, free of cost.

Correspondence

South Victoria, N.S.

Dear Editor,—I have never written to the 'Northern Messenger' before. I will be nine years old on the 25th of March. I have two sisters and one brother. I am the youngest of the girls. I would like Harriet Maud R. to correspond with me. She lives in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. I go to school and I am in grade five. I study geography, health-reader and reader. My address is: Eva M. Ross, South Victoria, Cumberland Co., N.S.

Fredericton, P.E.I.

Dear Editor,—This is the first time I have written to you. I do not take the 'Northern Messenger,' but my aunt does, and I read it and like it well. I have one sister. I go to school; I am in the third reader. My teacher is Miss Newsome, I like her very much. I have a dog called Carlo and two cats. My birthday is the twenty-fifth of January. I wonder if any one else has the same birthday. CYRUS McK (aged 10).

South Paris, Maine.

Dear Editor,—This good paper, the 'Messenger,' is given to the teachers and scholars in the Sunday school on Paris Hill each Sunday, so I have a chance to have a copy each week. I will send names of children that would be glad of the 'Messenger' to read, as you give the liberal offer. I consider it one of the very best of papers for children, and in fact, for old ones as well. Thanking you for your kindness, I remain, yours respectfully

MRS. CHARLES EDWARDS.

Pembroke.

Dear Editor,—Perhaps you will think it strange for me to write again so soon, but I think I will have to answer some of the letters that I have received from the 'Messenger' readers (who were so kind to write to me) in this way. I have received thirty-eight letters, and as I could not answer so many separately, I will at least try to acknowledge them in this way. It was great fun reading them. Some days I would get seven or eight. I thank the girls ever so much for writing to me. Some of the girls in Ontario and Quebec did not know much about Nova Scotia, so I will tell them something about it.

The population of Nova Scotia is 459,574, and of Yarmouth 6,430, and of Pembroke between two and three hundred. I live about a mile and a half from the sea-shore. The school-house is just a little way from it, and at noons in the summer we go down there and wade and play on the sands. Last summer I went bathing twice. I love to go bathing. We have a number of hedges of spruce and hawthorn here, and two large sycamores in front of our house. There is a river down just a few steps from our house, and last summer I learned to row. In the winter the Marsh is almost always over-flooded, and it makes it lovely to skate on. There are lots of woods around here. Every new flower or bird we see we tell our teacher, and she puts it on the Observations list. I love to find them and hunt for them too. We have a flower garden over in the school yard almost every summer. We almost always make them Arbor day. There are some tiger lilies coming up now that we planted last year. I am in the seventh grade, but we are going to have an examination pretty soon. I study geography, history, health reader, royal reader and 'super-seded.' I like geography and health reader the best.

LETTIE ALLEN.

Swan River, Man.

Dear Editor,—I have not seen any letters from this part of Manitoba yet, so I thought

I would write. We get the 'Messenger' at Sunday school. I have four brothers; the eldest is learning printing. I wonder if any little girl or boy's birthday is on the same day as mine, it is on the nineteenth of May. I go to school, and I am in the third book. My father is a farmer.

ANNIE C. S. (aged 10).

Woodstock, N.S.

Dear Editor,—I go to school every day. I am in the first primer. I go to Sunday school on Sunday. Every other Sunday there is preaching service. I have two brothers and one sister. I have one doll.

JENNIE M. C. (aged 6).

Woodstock, N.S.

Dear Editor,—I live in the village. I used to live on a farm. I go to school; it is just across the road. I am in the fourth reader; this is my first letter to the 'Messenger.' I go to Sunday school. We have a colt two years old, and it weighs about 1,400 pounds. J. GORDON C. (aged 11).

Mannheim, Ont.

Dear Editor,—I thought I would write for the first time. My sister gets the 'Messenger.' I have four brothers and two sisters. I am going to school. My teacher's name is Henry Koch. I have a dog; his name is Towsy. I have two cats. I am ten years old; my birthday is on March 28.

WESLEY H

Windsor Mills, Que.

Dear Editor,—I have taken the 'Northern Messenger' nearly a year. I go to school every day. My teacher's name is Miss Hodgson. I have two cats; their names are Topsy and Minnie. I have a sister and no brothers. I live in a village.

GEORGE E. R. (aged 10)

Estevan.

Dear Editor,—At our Sunday-school we take the 'Northern Messenger.' I read the stories in it, and often I read the letters. I have seven sisters and three brothers. I go to school every day. Our teacher's name is Mr. Freeman. I am in the third book, and am nine years old. We do not have many at our school; there are mostly about thirty. We do not live in the country. I will be ten years old on Feb. 18.

LILLIAN O. P.

Midland.

Dear Editor,—I get the 'Northern Messenger' at our Sunday school, and I like to read the nice letters the other children have written for it. I go to the big new school and my teacher's name is Miss Batt. I have a little sister and brother smaller than myself, and they had la grippe. They are getting better now. I am ten years old.

MARION McC.

Foot's Bay P.O., Muskoka, Ont.

Dear Editor,—I got the 'Northern Messenger' at Sunday school every Sunday. I have a sister and two brothers. We have a cow and a horse. I go to school. I am in the fourth reader. I have about two miles to go to school. There are a lot of wild animals up here. We have plenty of snow now, and I get lots of sleigh rides. I live on a farm, and we grow vegetables and many other things.

FLORENCE E. S.

Treherne, Man.

Dear Editor,—I have taken the 'Messenger' for three years. My father is a farmer and we live seven miles from town and about a mile and three-quarters from school. There is a spring creek running through our farm. We have eight horses and ten head of cattle. There is a lot of oak on our farm. I have got one brother, and one sister. My sister goes to school, and so do I, and I am in the third book.

D. A. McL.

Brooklyn, N.S.

Dear Editor,—I get the 'Messenger' at our Sunday school, and, as I haven't seen any letters from Brooklyn, I thought I would write one. I go to school and am in the seventh grade. We have a nice teacher; her name is Miss Dexter. I will be eleven years old on Jan. 27. I have no pets, but a dear little baby brother, who is a great pet. I have three brothers and one sister.