

THE GIRLS AND BOYS.

WHAT is the work for the girls and boys
In this beautiful world of ours!
Is it only play, and traps, and toys,
And stopping to gather flowers!
With their busy hands and tireless feet,
And hearts so jocund and free,
Is there not some work for the girls and boys
They can do with the heartiest glee!

There's a foe to fight—a foe to the boys.
He for men will spoil them quite,
And often the sweet and innocent girls
He lures away from the right.
King Alcohol 's the demon's name;
You will meet him everywhere.
Sixty thousand men he kills each year,
And to fight him who will dare!

The army, I think, is the girls and boys;
With God for their leader they go,
And they will conquer in his name
This cruel, murderous foe.
Then "down with King Alcohol," girls and boys,
Let this your watchword be,
"For God, and home, and native land
We'll fight till we are free."
MRS. E. J. RICHMOND.

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Pleasant Hours:

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

TORONTO, MAY 1, 1886.

\$250,000
FOR MISSIONS
For the Year 1886.

OUR CONTINUED STORY.

We have from time to time received requests to publish in our Sunday-school papers, a continued story. Desirous of learning to what extent this feeling prevailed, we asked through this paper, some weeks ago, superintendents to ascertain the wish of their schools on the matter. A good deal of very interesting correspondence was received, some schools desiring no change, but a larger number requesting a continued story. One of the strongest protests against the story, was from our respected contributor, the Rev. James Lawson, of Cobden, Ont. That we do perfect justice to his objection, we give it in full, omitting only certain complimentary remarks about the present Editor.



MAUNA LOA.

Dear Editor,—Having just noticed your "query" in PLEASANT HOURS of January 23, I hasten to drop a few lines on the subject to which it refers.

I sincerely hope you will not make the change suggested. Will you kindly permit me to say that one of the many excellent features of our very superior Sunday school papers, according to my mind, is, that there are no "continued stories" in them, every paper is complete in itself—just as I think every Church paper should be. Our Sunday-school papers fall into the hands of many who do not get them regularly; and to such, the continued story instalment would be rather annoying than edifying. Many papers use this plan on purpose to increase their circulation, and manage at the end of the year to secure a renewal by beginning some "thrilling story" of "intense interest" just before the new volume begins. Our Sunday-school publications happily need nothing of that kind to secure a large circulation, nor would our editor, I am fully persuaded, think of introducing serials with that object in view. And as the circulation in the past has shown how highly our papers were appreciated, I hope none of the present subscribers will be disappointed by finding the paper different from what they were led to expect. The fact that hitherto such stories have not appeared seems to indicate that in the judgment of the editor, they were not desirable.

I am very glad that hitherto the editor has so decided. I very much appreciate his judgment in the matter, and hope I shall still have the privilege of doing as I have been accustomed to do, namely: recommending our own publications, publicly as well as privately, laying special emphasis on the very gratifying fact that "each paper is complete in itself, and no continued stories." I thought of offering a few additional reasons for not introducing the proposed change, but fear I have already made my letter too long. My intense loyalty to our own publications, and my very strong objections to continued story papers, must be my apology, which I trust will be kindly accepted by both indulgent editor and readers.

Yours loyally,
JAMES LAWSON.

Now, we must say, frankly, that we feel quite strongly the force of Bro. Lawson's objections. At the same time many more schools request the story than object to it. And in this respect we desire to meet, so far as possible, the reasonable wishes of our active Sunday-school workers, on whom rests the burden of making our schools and our papers, the grand success that they are.

We shall endeavour to avoid the objections set forth in Bro. Lawson's letter. We think it not honest to print a story which continues after many of the schools close in the fall, or which begins before they open in the spring. We have therefore delayed beginning our story till the month of

May, when all the schools will be open for the summer. And as that in PLEASANT HOURS will only run through three or four months, and that in *Home and School* a little longer, they will both be ended before the winter-sleeping schools close in the fall.

We think most readers, both old and young, are too fond of stories. They should be used only as the salt, or spice, or sugar, of our mental food, and not as its staple diet. They will therefore form only a subordinate part of the reading of these papers. We shall try in each number to give a variety of religious instructive reading, based on solid fact, on biography, history, the study of nature, the great movements of the age, and shall try to saturate each paper with religion, temperance, patriotism, love of missions, and everything that will benefit both head and heart.

But a reasonable amount of story can do no harm, and will do good. Religious lessons can often be taught by a story or parable, as they can no other way, and there is something to be said in favour of a longer story than can be contained in a single paper. There is an opportunity in such a story to more clearly describe and develop character, to more strongly affect the mind, to more deeply impress important lessons, than in the short story sketch. After reading a score or a hundred of these, one very often has only a very confused recollection of what they are about, or perhaps no recollection at all. Now the sustained interest of the continued story keeps it fresh in the mind, and one can remember it as a whole, with its religious lessons, or moral teaching, for years, or perhaps for life.

But just here is the difficulty; to find a continued story of sufficient value, and of such distinct religious teaching as to justify its being put into the hands of the nearly 100,000 readers of PLEASANT HOURS. There are scores of stories which will interest and amuse, but will not instruct the mind, or profit the soul. These we do not feel at liberty to use. We have made diligent search before we were able to find one which came up to our ideal of what a religious story, for PLEASANT HOURS, should be. And even this we abridged from a large-sized book, containing a good deal that we would not feel justified in printing in this

paper. For *Home and School* we were unable to find such a story. So we use one written by the Editor, to supply just such a need.

We hope that their religious teaching will be owned and blessed of God, to the spiritual and eternal welfare of their readers.

MAUNA LOA.

THE Sandwich Islands contain the largest volcanoes, both active and quiet, in the world. The two most lofty mountains are Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa, each of which is fourteen thousand feet in height. Kilauea, on the latter mountain, is the largest active volcano in the world, having an oval-shaped crater nine miles in circumference. In this immense cauldron is a red sea of lava, always in a state of fusion. At intervals the lava is thrown to a great height, and rolls in rivers down the mountain sides. Except at these intervals the mountain is covered with perpetual snow. It is in the centre of Hawaii, the largest island of the group. Near to it is the native village of Waiohinu, which is in a forest of orange, fig and guava trees.

JOINING THE CHURCH.

How soon should I join the Church? The best answer we can give to that question is: Just as soon as your heart has joined the Saviour. When God gives conversion, he demands confession. Make the most of your early love. If your heart goes out to Jesus in loving trust, then stand up for him, and with him, joining your hands to his, take the blessed vow of spiritual wedlock. The whole drift of the Bible is in favour of prompt trust in Christ, prompt confession of Christ, and prompt obedience to his every call of duty. The teaching of the Word is: "Whosoever he saith to you, do it." But the devil's version reads: "Whosoever he saith to you, delay it."

The latest number of "Caseell's National Library" that has reached us is Horace Walpole's famous Gothic romance, "The Castle of Otranto." Prof. Morley writes a graceful introduction. This Library brings within the reach of everybody some of the most striking works of English literature at the nominal figure of 10 cents per volume.