

Grandmother's Bible.

So you've brought me this costly Bible,
With its covers so grand and gay;
You thought I must need a new one
On my eighty-first birthday, you say.
Yes, mine is a worn out volume,
Grown ragged and yellow with age,
With finger-prints thick on the margin;
But there's never a missing page.

And the finger-prints call back my wee ones,
Just learning a verse to repeat;
And again in the twilight their faces
Look up to me eagerly sweet.
It has pencil marks pointed in silence,
To words I have hid in my heart:
And the lessons so hard in the learning,
Once learned can never depart.

Your gift is a beauty, my dearie,
With its wonderful clasps of gold.
Put it carefully into that drawer;
I shall keep it till death; but the old—
Just leave it close by on the table,
And then you may bring me a light,
And I'll read a sweet psalm from its pages,
To think of, if wakeful to-night.

—Selected.

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Pleasant Hours:

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK.

Rev. W. H. WITHROW, D.D., Editor.

TORONTO, NOVEMBER 12, 1887.

\$250,000 FOR MISSIONS FOR THE YEAR 1887.

COURSE OF HOME READING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

It will be remembered that the last General Conference gave directions for the preparation of a Course of Home Reading for the Young People of our Church. Such a course was laid down, and a considerable number of young people entered upon it, although it was not announced till near February. It has been thought best not to make much change in that course this year, but to urge as many young people as possible to take it up early and follow it up regularly. Even very young people, from 12 to 14, who have not the time to take up the fuller Chautauqua course, can



FIFTEEN-SPINED STICKLEBACK.

manage this, and will find it much shorter and less expensive. We hope that Sunday-school superintendents and teachers will organize reading unions among the young people and induce as many of them as possible to take it up. It will be found, we think, both interesting and instructive. It will make them more familiar with the Word of God and with the evidences of our holy religion, with the evils of the drink habit and with a rational foundation for total abstinence, and with the romantic history of their own country. It will give them a taste for good reading and a disgust for the trashy reading on which many waste, and worse than waste, their time. There are no fees nor expenses of any sort except the price of the books.

COURSE FOR 1887-8.

The following books are recommended for home reading during the year 1887-8:

- (a) Assembly Bible Outlines, J. H. Vincent, D.D. 12c.
- (b) Richardson's Temperance Lessons 25c.
- (c) Canadian History and Literature, Withrow and Adams 50c.
- (d) Christian Evidences, J. H. Vincent, D.D. 12c.
- (e) What is Education? By Prof. Phelps 12c.
- And Socrates. By Prof. Phelps 12c.

The complete list will be supplied for \$1.15 net.

NOTE.—These books can be procured at the prices marked, from William Briggs, Methodist Publishing House, Toronto; C. W. Coates, 3 Bleury Street, Montreal; and S. F. Huestis, Methodist Book Room, Halifax.

Supplementary illustrative readings will appear in successive numbers of *Home and School*.

The following is the recommended Order of Study for the year 1887-8:

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER.

Canadian History, Literature, and Assembly Bible Outlines.

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY.

History continued, and Richardson's Temperance Lessons.

MARCH AND APRIL.

History continued, and What is Education? By Prof. Phelps.

MAY AND JUNE.

History, etc., concluded. Christian Evidences, by J. H. Vincent, D.D.

LOCAL CIRCLES.

In order to carry out as efficiently as possible the directions of the General Conference, the Committee urgently solicit the hearty co-operation of all our ministers and Sunday-school superintendents and teachers in organizing, in connection with all our congregations and Sunday-schools, of local Home Reading Circles.

ONLY the other day a boy of fifteen was seen hunting all over the Old Testament to find the Acts of the Apostles. Bright, wasn't he? Yes, he was more than an average bright boy, who could reckon partial payments, diagram long sentences, bound almost any country on the face of the globe, write a neat letter, tell you all about the leading battles of the Revolution; but his heavenly Father's message to him he—well, it was not all his fault. These other things had been taught to him, and this had not; and you can hardly expect a boy to learn such things of his own accord.

FIFTEEN-SPINED STICKLEBACK.

The stickleback is a small fish, but like many small creatures in this great world, he makes up by cunning and activity what he lacks in size. Observation of the stickleback led scientific gentlemen to the discovery of the nest-building habits of certain fish—a very surprising thing, at least to me, for when I was a boy, it was commonly supposed that birds were the only nest-builders in creation. But we are growing wiser every day; not perhaps as fast as we should, taking into consideration all our opportunities, but still adding a little to our store of information as the days gather themselves into the heaps we call years.

When building the nest they collect small pieces of straw or stick with which the bottom is laid among water plants, and these they cement together by a peculiar substance that exudes from their bodies. Into the nest the mother stickleback creeps, after her husband has completed it—for he is the builder—and there she lays her eggs.

For quite a while after the little sticklebacks are hatched, they are compelled to remain indoors, for if they venture out into the water they run great risk of being devoured by other fish. So father stickleback continually swims around the nest, and as soon as one of his numerous children ventures out, with a whisk of his tail and a poke of his little cold nose, he drives it back again.

GET what you get honestly, peaceably, and prayerfully; then you will enjoy it gratefully.