

The wine-glasses were set down with their contents untasted.

After leaving the house, one of the party exclaimed, "That is the most effective temperance lecturo I have ever heard."

Indeed, it was sown in good ground. It took root, sprang up and is now bearing fruit. The young man from whom these facts were obtained broke off at once from the use of all strong drink, and is now a clergyman, preaching temperance and religion. As he related the circumstance to me tears came into his eyes. He sees now his former dangerous position, and holds in grateful remembrance the lady who gracefully, and still resolutely, gave him to understand that her callers should not drink wine.

MISSED 'EM SEVEN TIMES.—A gentleman was passing an Oxford Co. School House one day last summer when a studious looking lad emerged from one of the doors with a worried expression, and scrambled to the rear of the building, closely followed by a companion, who popped from a hiding place behind the fence. The two sought the shelter of a retired nook, when the studious lad backed up against the wall, and reaching his hand behind him into that department of a boy's clothing that is patched next after his knees, he drew forth a heavy buckskin mit and then another. As he readjusted his deranged garments he winced a little, and, rubbing a little further down on his anatomy, gave vent to the remark: "By hickory, Jiminy! they're pretty good, but he missed 'em seven times."

WHAT IS A GENTLEMAN.—A gentleman is just a gentle man; no more, no less,—a diamond polished that was first a diamond in the rough. A gentleman is gentle. A gentleman is modest. A gentleman is courteous. A gentleman is slow to take offense, as being one who never gives it. A gentleman is slow to surmise evil, as being one who never thinks it. A gentleman refines his tastes. A gentleman subdues his feelings. A gentleman controls his speech. A gentleman deems others better than himself.— *School Hours.*

Children's Department.

Our Prize Letters.

To the Editor of the Companion and Teacher.

Ravenswood, Ont., Dec. 12th. 1876.

DEAR SIR,—My teacher having been kind enough to allow me the reading of the COMPANION AND TEACHER, I saw your generous offer of a prize to the writer of the best letter sent you this month.

As you have been kind enough to allow the writers to take whatever subject they choose, I have selected for mine "THE COMPANION AND TEACHER."

Judging from a limited knowledge of your worthy magazine, I think it is a first-class household periodical. In it we find instruction especially in mathematics; and if there are those whose school days are over, who wish to obtain recreation in light literature, they also discover that their wants are satisfied by perusing the pages of the COMPANION AND TEACHER.

In the "Miscellaneous" department we find jokes which interest both old and young, and which

make many a cottage home of Ontario resound with laughter.

I think if a few more of your brother editors were to follow your example, and take up the cause of education a little stronger, and leave out a portion of that miserable trash they print which is second cousin to the "yellow paper literature" of so many of our book-stores, they would do far better; and instead of weakening and impairing the minds of their readers, they would be strengthening and building up the reasoning faculties of the youth of our land.

In conclusion, my dear sir, I wish you every success in your commendable enterprise; and, hoping that you will long live and continue the editor of a journal which is such a staunch upholder of education and healthy literature as the COMPANION AND TEACHER,

I remain, your well-wisher,
CARRIE T. PALMER.

Editor Companion and Teacher

Sarnia, Dec. 14, 1875.

SIR,—I learn from the last number of the COMPANION AND TEACHER that there were several more successful than I was in the word-hunt.

My subject for this letter is "Going to School." I like to go to school very much. I am very sorry that our teacher has resigned, but hope that her successor may be as kind and agreeable. The subjects that I like best are Geography, History, Arithmetic and French. On Mondays and Fridays we have an hour for sewing, and it is a very pleasant time, for one of the girls usually reads aloud some interesting book. To-morrow is examination day, but the prizes are not to be distributed until the twenty-second of this month.

As our teacher is resigning, we intend giving her a present. Most of the teachers in Sarnia will receive presents this year.

Wishing you, Mr. Editor, and all who have engaged in this competition, "a merry Christmas and a very happy New Year,"

I am, yours respectfully,
JANIE G. BRENNER.

The Worst Letter.

Respectable

Friend

I will take the opportunity

To write you a few lines

About our school Master

he is a nice kind of a fellow only some days he is crosser than other days he is not a bad teacher only he is not very good to learn anything he is all the time talking about law when he ought to be learning us our lessons.

I am going to school to him I am in the third book senior third class I am going into the fourth book at Christmas if I do miss three mistakes in reding when the inspector comes I wont go into the fourth book I am learning siffering Geography and Grammar and we do wise recitation and composition If we throw any thing aroung the school house we will ged twelve slaps with the cat five tales and stop in every recess untill christmas he gave me three whippens and he thought to make me cry and he could not he hit me on the hands his best and I would not cry and he gave me eight slaps one time and ten another time and he gave me six another time and I did not cry for him.

Your Truly