

The BOYS of To-day, are the YOUNG MEN of To-morrow.



"OUR BOYS"



PUBLISHED BY THE



OF THE

TORONTO YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

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COME TAKE

Whosoever will,
let him TAKE the
water of life freely.
Revelation xxii. 17.

A FREE GIFT.

TAKE my yoke upon
you, and learn of
me. Matt. xi. 29.

ACCEPT BELIEVE

TO ALL
OUR BOYS
WE WISH
A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

CHANGE.

OUR Boys work is once more to suffer loss, by the removal of the chairman, Mr. Edwards, who has decided again to take up his abode in New York, or near that city. He will be missed very much, and will carry with him the best wishes, not only of the Boys, but also of the Board of Directors and the workers generally.

ANOTHER CHANGE.

THE General Secretary of the Association having resigned that position, the work of editing "Our Boys" will devolve upon some other person, but who that person is to be is yet an open question. In retiring from the work, the Secretary wishes to say to the readers of "Our Boys" that to him the work of preparing the paper has been one of great pleasure—and that pleasure has been added to by the fact that he has repeatedly received letters telling of the good received through reading the paper. He will ever take an interest in the boys of Toronto, and in "Our Boys" also, and will gladly help, if need be, the friend to whom future editorial labors may be assigned.

A NEW commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another.
John xiii. 34.

The Lord's mercies are **NEW** every morning.
Lam. iii. 23.

DON'T BE ASHAMED TO PRAY.

WHEN Sir James Anderson first went to sea he joined a ship where the men in the fore-castle respected the boy on his knees, and did not molest him, amongst their number being one who took a special interest in the boy as a countryman, and rejoiced in the name of "Scotch Bob." All went well till they reached Calcutta, and another sailor was shipped for the voyage home, whose name was "English Bob," to distinguish him from the other. Young Anderson kneeled down as usual to pray at night, when all of a sudden a boot was thrown at him, and then another, by "English Bob," who took offence at what he called "canting humbug."

"Scotch Bob," hearing the noise, came to the rescue of his compatriot, and there was a fight, the Scotchman getting the best of it. Next night young Anderson was afraid to kneel down as usual, and turned into bed prayerless. Presently out he was pulled and planted on the deck by his former defender, "Scotch Bob," who shook him, and said,

"You little rascal, do you think I am going to fight for you and then see you act thus? If you are not afraid of your Maker's anger, I'll make you afraid of mine, so come out and say your prayers!"

GOOD AND BAD APPLES.

WHEN one day Robert's father saw him playing with some boys who were rude and boisterous, He had observed for some time a change for the worse in his son, and now he knew the cause. He was very sorry, but he said nothing to Robert at the time. In the evening he brought from the garden six beautiful, rosy-cheeked apples, put

them on a plate, and presented them to Robert, who was much pleased at his father's kindness and thanked him. "You must lay them aside a few days, that they may become mellow," said the father. And Robert cheerfully placed the plate with the apples in his mother's store room.

Just as he was putting them aside; his father laid on the plate a seventh apple, which was quite decayed, and desired him to allow it to remain there.

"But, father," said Robert, "the decayed apple will spoil all the others."

"Do you think so? Why should not the fresh apples rather make the bad one fresh?" And with these words he shut the door of the room.

Eight days afterward he asked his son to open the door of the room, and take out the apples. But what a sight presented itself! The six apples which had been so sound and good, spread a bad smell through the room.

"Oh, papa!" cried he, "did I not tell you that the decayed apple would spoil the good ones?"

"My boy," said his father, "have I not told you often that the company of bad children will make you bad? yet you do not listen to me. I want you to learn a lesson from these apples. If you keep company with wicked boys, you will soon be like them."

Robert did not forget the lesson. When any of his former playfellows asked him to join in their sports, he thought of the decayed apples, and prayed to be kept from evil.

REMEMBER

THAT A

BOY'S MEETING

IS HELD

EVERY FRIDAY EVENING,

At 8 o'clock, in Parlor "B" Shaftesbury Hall.
ALL BOYS INVITED.

If any man be in Christ, he is a **NEW** creature.

2 Cor. v. 17.

I will put a **NEW** spirit within you.
Exekiel xi. 19.

THE GIFT OF GOD.

"The gift of God! the gift of God!
Who will buy the gift of God?"

SUCH is the cry of the water-carrier as he goes about the streets of Egyptian towns with his water-skin thrown over his shoulder, during the season of drought, when the water, from its preciousness, may well be called, as it is, "the gift of God." As the water-carrier goes along his way—now coming into a wealthy part of the town—a rich man, thinking of the need of the poor, and wishing to bestow a kindness on them, steps out of his mansion, and pays the man for all the water he has, desiring him to go into the poorest quarter and give it away.

The man hastens off, and reaches a lane where the poorest have their dwellings, and now changes his cry, and instead of saying,—

"Who will *buy* the gift of God?" he cries out—"The gift of God! the gift of God! Who will *take* the gift of God?"

We can easily imagine how eagerly and gladly the poor thirsty ones gather around him, and that there would not be much delay before the empty vessels were brought out of their houses to be filled. "Give me a drop!" "Remember me!" "Fill up my pitcher!" "Let me have a draught!" and such-like eager appeals, in beseeching tones, would make the water-carrier think how best he could dispose of the precious liquid; and, while gladdening him to be bearer of so free and prized a gift? would go to his very heart that he had not enough for all.

What a grand picture we have here of the water of life, which is offered "without money and without price" to every one that thirsteth!

Jesus has paid for the water for which our souls were dying of thirst; and as we have "no money," it would be a

hopeless case indeed for us, if He, in His love and in His pity, had not thought of our need, and came forth from His glorious mansion above, not only to purchase it for us, but actually to bring it with His own hands to our parched lips.

But with our Jesus there is enough and to spare. The fountain of his grace never fails—the stream of His grace never dried up—no one need be afraid of being sent empty away, for every one is invited; and it will never be exhausted until the last poor thirsty sinner, who has felt his need has come for a supply of the gift of God. 'If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith unto thee, Give me to drink, thou wouldst have asked of Him, and He would have given thee living water.

"AS LITTLE CHILDREN."

A LITTLE girl of my acquaintance was once looking at a picture, with which many are familiar, which represents a stormy sea, with a rock in the midst of it, bearing upon it's summit a cross, to which a female figure clings, while at her feet a hand, grasping part of a wreck, is just disappearing beneath the angry waves.

"What does that mean," asked the child.

"It is called 'The Rock of Ages,'" was the answer. "That means Jesus to whom we cling for salvation. You know the hymn says, 'Other refuge have I none.'"

"Oh, yes," said the child, after a moment's hesitation; "but that rock isn't *my* Jesus. When I cling to Him, He reaches down and clings too."

Let us preach this Jesus "who reaches down and clings too," to whom we hold, not so much from fear of falling, since underneath are the everlasting arms, but because, like the trusting child whom the father safely carries, we love to cling, that we may draw Him closer.

He hath put a **NEW** song in my mouth.
Psalm xl. 5.

Thou shalt be called by a NEW name.
Isaiah lxii. 2.

"DON'T GIVE UP, BUT TRY."

A GENTLEMAN travelling in the northern part of Ireland heard the voices of children, and paused to listen. Finding the sound proceeded from a small building used as a school-house, he drew near. As the door was open, he entered and listened to the words the boys were spelling.

One little fellow stood apart, looking sad and dispirited.

"Why does that boy stand there?" asked the gentleman.

"Oh, he is good for nothing," replied the teacher. "There's nothing in him. I can make nothing of him. He is the most stupid boy in the school."

The gentleman was surprised at this answer. He saw that the teacher was so stern and rough that the younger and more timid were very nearly crushed. He said a few words to them, and then placing his hand on the brow of the little fellow who stood there, he said, "One of these days you may be a finescholar. Don't give up but try, my boy, try."

The boy's soul was aroused. A new purpose was formed. From that hour he became studious and ambitious to excel. And he did become a fine scholar, a great and good man, beloved and honored, and the author of a well-known commentary on the Bible. It was Dr. Adam Clarke.

The secret of his success is worth knowing: "Don't give up, but try, my boy."

A PUZZLE.

Think of a number. Multiply it by nine. Is the product two figures? If so, add them together. Multiply the sum by ten. Add ten. The result is one hundred.

THE USE OF THE TONGUE.

"GOD made the tongue; and, since He never makes anything in vain, we may be sure He made it for some good purpose. What is its good purpose?" Thus spoke a teacher, one day in her class.

"He made it that we may pray with it," answered one boy.

"To sing with," said another.

"To talk to people with," said a third.

"To recite our lessons with," replied another.

"Yes; and I will tell you what He did *not* make it for. He did not make it for us to scold with, to lie with, or to swear with. He did not mean that we should say unkind, or foolish, or impatient words with it. Now think, every time you use your tongues, if you are using them in the way which pleases God. Do good with your tongues, and not evil. It is one of the most important members in the whole body, although it is so small. Serve God every day."

HARRY'S LANTERN.

SOME time ago, one Christmas Eve, Harry was sent on an errand. After giving him his message, his mother said, "Be sure you take the lantern with you, Harry." "What do I want with the lantern?" asked the boy: "know the way fast enough." But very soon Harry found he was mistaken. First he stumbled into a hole, than he fell into a ditch, returning covered with mud and bruises. The lantern would have saved him from all this. How foolish he was not to have taken it! But what shall be said of those who refuse to take God's Word as the lamp unto their feet, and the light to their path? Are they not still more foolish?

Behold, I make all things NEW.

Rev. xxi. 5.