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The Weekly Messenger

SALUTATORY.

The *Weekly Messenger* is only in the third year of its existence, yet, we are happy to say, it has made many warm friends, and we hope that at the beginning of the year on which we are just entering, it will succeed in making many more. When renewing their own subscriptions, the readers of this paper would confer a great favor on us were they to induce some of their friends and neighbors to subscribe with them, and so materially swell its already increasing circulation.

This issue is the last number for 1884, and we cordially wish its readers, one and all, A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!

THE FRANCO-CHINESE WAR.

One of the first bits of news on this subject during the past seven days, was the receipt of a despatch from Admiral Courbet, from Kelung, stating that his force had dislodged the Chinese from works that they had thrown up. In the sortie, two hundred of the Chinese are reported as killed or wounded. China in order to attack her enemy by sea has sent out several cruisers. All the despatches that come via Paris claim successes for the French. On December 17, a cablegram received from Hanoi, states that three thousand Chinese troops made a desperate attempt to capture Chu, but after severe fighting were completely routed, a French garrison, occupying, and remaining in possession of the place. The loss of the Chinese in this sortie is put down at eight hundred killed. The French claim but thirty-four killed and wounded. In Tonquin the French forces were by December 18, strongly entrenched at Lang Kep, the Chinese being also in force at a point four miles distant. The French, although claiming so many victories are reported to be very anxiously awaiting reinforcements. Many deaths have already occurred among the soldiers and a large percentage of those remaining are unfit for service on account of sickness. The operations in Formosa are at a standstill.

On December 20, the Cabinet at Paris approved of a new plan for a Chinese campaign. All reinforcements are to be sent to Tonquin, General de L'Isle directing his forces in two columns on Ling Song and Cao Bang, where solid garrisons will be formed upon the Chinese frontiers; Admiral Courbet to have a force of about eight thousand men massed for an attack upon Kelung and Tamsui.

The *Figaro*, of Paris, has published the text of the protest of the King of Cambodia against the treaty with France, which he was forced to sign at the point of the bayonet by Governor Thomson, placing the king's dominions under the protection of France. The *Figaro* expresses a hope that France will not ratify such a treaty, but the Colonial Council urges the home government to demand of parliament its sanction,

stating that such sanction is simply necessary to the peace of Cambodia and to the interests of France in the east.

THE NICARAGUAN TREATY.

England is dissatisfied with the published terms of the Nicaraguan Treaty, and the *Times*, of London, Eng., says that the proposal will excite profound amazement in England and America. It will doubtless elicit a distinct protest in both countries as being in direct violation of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty. Americans, it says, must not suppose that Englishmen will depreciate the treaty owing to any alarm at the extension of the American dominions or from any mistrust that the advantages gained will be abused to the injury of British trade, but they cannot approve of the example afforded by one state purchasing control of such a waterway for its personal, and not as a trustee for the benefit of the world. The navigable highway between two oceans must not be made a petty matter of sale and barter between a couple of states.

The *New York Tribune* in discussing the question, says that the Sovereignty of Nicaragua will not be involved, that the United States does not propose acquiring territory. The canal, primarily, would be a domestic means of water communication between the Atlantic and Pacific of the two countries which unite for its construction, the one contributing the territory and the other furnishing the money.

From Paris, it is learned that M. De Lesseps is undaunted by the American-Nicaraguan scheme, and that he never felt better disposed to carry out his great task.

THE EGYPTIAN PROBLEM.

Lord Wolsley is expected to complete the concentration of his army at Korti during the first week of the New Year, and begin his march through the desert upon Shendy on the seventh day of January. The distance from Korti to Shendy is some two hundred miles, and Lord Wolsley calculates that the march will occupy about sixteen days provided he meets with no resistance from the enemy on the route. Simultaneously a march is to be made from Suakim against Osman Digna in order to secure the flank of the Nile expedition. General Stephenson is to assume command of the latter expedition. At Suakim, out of one thousand two hundred marines and sailors, it is reported that there are only one hundred effective men. Fresh troops will in consequence be sent there. General Stephenson, it is reported, insists on the necessity of raising the effective force to five thousand men if he is to successfully operate against Osman Digna.

The correspondent of the *London Daily News* has telegraphed from Korti, that he has ridden 140 miles through the country alone and found the natives courteous.

The Peace Association of England assert that were proper authority given them, they could negotiate a safe conduct for General Gordon and the Khartoum garrison to Dongola. The association thinks that it

could also secure a general pacification of the Upper Nile region, and avoid the need of an expedition to that quarter.

A St. Petersburg despatch, in referring to the demand of Russia and Germany for admittance to the Caisse de la Dette Publique of Egypt, says that it is impossible to permit a continuance of the present state of things in Egypt so harmful to common interests. It considers the solution of the Egyptian Problem as having become more urgent because the political movement of Europe tends in the direction of colonial acquisition. It favors the appointment of a mixed commission, charged with the task of studying on the spot whether the British proposals are well or ill-founded. This despatch is believed to embody the opinions of the powers in regard to the creation of a mixed commission, and that such action is tantamount to a rejection of the English proposals. At Cairo, the prevailing opinion is that the government gave an illusory reply to demand of Russia and Germany for admittance to the Caisse when it informed those powers that it would consent to their admittance in case all the signatory powers agreed to the change necessitated in the law of liquidation. The Russian consul in consequence at once wrote a sharp reply, and the German Consul visited the Khedive and accused Nubar Pasha of bad faith.

THE CONGO CONFERENCE.

The Congo Conference held a session recently, at which the delegates tacitly supported America's proposition, except those representing Portugal and France. Experts are experiencing great difficulty in forming a formula to meet the American project and the conference will probably last for some days yet.

One of the acts of the meeting was an agreement to put on record a protest to restrict as far as possible the liquor traffic in the Congo and Niger countries. France is reported to have made secret overtures to England and Holland for their recognition of the claims of France in the Congo territory and with a view to their withdrawal of their proposal to make neutral the territory of the African International Association. M. Ferry, it is said, proposes to Lord Granville that France and England agree as to the terms of the Egyptian question on condition that England supports the claims of France on the Congo and her Chinese policy.

MR. HENRY GEORGE, the well-known advocate of the "land for the people" is at present on a lecturing tour in Scotland, and his meetings, which are largely attended, have resulted in the general acceptance of the doctrine of the nationalization of the Land wherever he goes. Landlords and agents declare that it is almost impossible now to collect rents, and that the value of property has greatly decreased.

ARCHBISHOP LEROY, of New Orleans, approves of the Exposition being kept open on Sundays; and recommends Catholics, who are unable to attend on week-days, to visit it on Sundays after their religious duties are performed.

THE DYNAMITERS have been again at work in England. An attempt has just been made to blow up the Windsor Railway station. It is supposed that the original plan was to blow up Windsor Castle, but that the person in charge of the operation finding that the Queen had gone to Osborne, took the infernal machine to the railway station in order to get rid of it. A suspicious-looking stranger, with the appearance of an American, was noticed loitering about the station on Friday. After the explosion he disappeared. The police have no clue. Meantime the government seem seriously alarmed. The guards have been doubled at Windsor castle, and have been armed with rifles loaded with ball cartridges, a large number of detectives have been despatched to Osborne for the protection of the Queen, all the members of the Royal Family have received extra guards, while public buildings and railway stations are being closely watched.

PREPARATIONS for the Montreal Winter Carnival proceed apace; and it is confidently anticipated that the displays this year will greatly exceed those of the two preceding demonstrations. The ice castle will be a much more elaborate structure than that of last year. While the Egyptian condora will not only be a unique feature, but will prove one of the most brilliant attractions of the carnival. Then there will be an immense toboggan slide on St. Helen's island, any number of tableaux formed of snow-shoers, a handsome boulevard across the river, a Mammoth ice-lion on Place d'Armes, colossal ice-columns on Notre Dame street, torch-light processions, snow-shoe processions, and races, and masquerades, and fancy tournaments, &c. A very large inflow of strangers is expected; and we certainly intend carnival week to be the gayest yet experienced since the inauguration of the movement two years ago.

THE MAN Nicholson, who was arrested a few months ago at Montreal for the murder of his wife in Boston, was on Thursday last, sentenced to death. The prisoner confessed his guilt. He stated that he had always lived happily with his wife, whom he loved. The latter, upon her mother's death, went to keep house for her father. To this the prisoner objected. On the day of the murder he went to see her, spoke to her, and then (as he stated) a feeling came over him that he must kill her. He fired at her several times, and then fled.

WITH REGARD to the recent explosion at London Bridge, the *Irishman* alleges that the government sent a woman to Ireland with authority to offer a contribution of £500 towards the cost of a launch to be used on the Thames for throwing bombs at the parliament buildings. It connects this story with the launch seen near London Bridge shortly before the explosion. No sane person believes this story, nor is it likely that the paper which circulates it attaches the least credence to it.

IN THE engagement with the Chinese at Cau, the French had twenty killed and ninety-three wounded.

LITTLE FOXES.

Among my tender vines I spy,
A little fox named "by-and-by."

Then set upon him, quick, I say,
The swift young hunter "Right Away."

Around each tender vine I plant,
I find the little fox "I Can't!"

Then fast as ever hunter ran,
Chase him with bold and brave "I can."

"No Use in trying!" lags and whines,
This fox among my tender vines.

Then drive him low, and drive him high,
With this good hunter named "I'll Try."

Among the vines in my small lot,
Creeps in the young fox "I Forgot."

Then hunt him out and to his den,
With "I-Will-Not-Forget-Again."

—Children's Hour.

WHILST THE SNOWFLAKES
FELL ON CHRISTMAS EVE.

(Concluded.)

"Before invading the store-room we should settle on what we shall each contribute to the basket," said Annette.

"It will be like the game of the 'Alphabet Basket,'" exclaimed Effie. "Such fun!—and we can do it here beside Cousin Charlie. Let us begin at once. It is a Christmas basket remember. So everything must commence with C— Now what will each put in the basket C—?"

Cake, candles, clothes, coffee, confectionery, were spoken in quick succession. "Christmas cards," added Ronald. "I've a lot over from last year."

Effie demurred, but cousin Charlie permitted the contribution. The "cards" would be certainly "new" to Martin, and probably, therefore, welcome. So the collection proceeded animatedly, till every available C— was exhausted, and the girls' pocket-money anticipatorily invested to the last farthing. Then they departed to tell mother, and gain her permission to turn the store-room into a shop. Mrs. Dermott acquiesced, half-amused, half-puzzled, by Effie's vehement, rather confused explanation.

"Better, perhaps, send the little boy half-a-crown," she suggested.

"No; a crown, mother! That will be your C—," returned Annette energetically, as off she and Effie set again to seek Mrs. Evans, the housekeeper, and from her to make the necessary purchases. The weighing, measuring, and selection of articles took some time, Effie being very anxious Martin's Christmas "candies" should be "wax" ones, and quite unconvincible on the point that a large plain plum cake was more suitable and better value than a small exceedingly "rich compound," because the latter was "frost-ed and looked prettier." At last the great business was satisfactorily completed, and the chosen "merchandise" together with a "big, big basket" to hold the contributions, dragged into the sitting-room, so that cousin Charlie might superintend the packing.

"We have everything but the clothes," announced Effie breathlessly. "Mother is sending an old but warm cloak for Martin's grandmother; but for himself, what shall we do?"

However, this apparent difficulty was dissipated by the discovery of a whole suit of garments, all ready for Martin's wear, having been mysteriously provided by cousin Charlie, who now slipped the package into the basket. So none of the promised C—'s were missing: even Ronald's last year's cards all went in.

"Charity will bind the heterogeneous assortment together. That C— is, or ought to be, the capital letter to the whole thing," added cousin Charlie, as the final little "Christmas-box" disappeared and a protecting string was tied round the osier receptacle.

"There, it is done!" cried Annette, springing up from her kneeling position as jacker. "And there is not a ray more daylight. How the tin. has run away!"

"Then, in spite of the 'horrid snow,' the 'entire day' has not been lost!" half-smiled cousin Charlie, in a manner, and his words uttered in a tone, that showed he had not been "dreaming!" all the morning quite so abstractedly as was opined by Ronald.

Annette colored. "It was very wrong and wicked of me to speak and feel as I did," she said after a little pause, "when I ought to have been grateful my place in the world did not oblige me to go out in the storm to earn a shilling like poor Martin; but I shall try and not forget that lesson in position the snowflakes taught me."

"Nor forget, either, that one of the greatest privileges owned by people 'well placed in the world' is their consequent ability to assist and soften the condition of their lower and poorer brothers and sisters. That is an advantage human beings have over snowflakes, who cannot by any means alter or improve a less favoured neighbor in snowflake's position. However, luckily, these latter do not feel their harder lot."

had sent him a snilling—a whole shilling! Such easily earned money it seemed to him, and nearly twice as much as his usual day's wages. It was good of her, and granny would be so pleased. And on he trudged with quickening steps to the cottage beyond the wood, where he lived with his grandmother. It was a low mud-walled cottage, with a faint curl of blue smoke rising from its one chimney against the rising wintry sky, and as Martin lifted the latch and entered, the aspect inside was as humble as that without. No warm, soft carpet; no polished grate heaped with blazing English coals; no easy chairs; no sofas. Only an earthen floor, black rafters, and a few pieces of deal furniture dimly conspicuous by the flickering beams of a turf fire, over which, superintending some cookery, bent an old rheumatic woman, who turned slowly as the door-latch clicked, and her grandson stood within the threshold.

"Ah, Martin, my boy, you're home in fine time. But you're very wet; come and

hearts of the rich to be kind to the poor. An' thanks be to Him, too, for sending us a return of the Christmas," quoth Granny Daly, who, despite sixty-seven years of hard work and poverty, had not yet, it seemed, found Christmas "tiresome," but in her own way felt grateful for it, and enjoyed it; and although her "position in the world" afforded her neither the means nor the power to obtain the luxuries and pleasures rich people command at this season, she nevertheless had some little addition to ordinary life and fare for herself and her grandson this evening. A turf fire instead of a rushlight, and a bit of bacon for supper instead of the customary meal of dry potatoes and salt. All which unwonted "good things" granny had, out of her spinning earnings, carefully provided, as she expressed it, "in honor of the night." For with the dwellers by the Shannon as well as the dwellers by the Rhine, it is the Eve of Christmas, which is the social moment of the festival.

After supper the old woman of sixty-seven and the little boy of twelve had some more pleasant talk. Granny related to Martin the few bright things she could recall concerning the sixty-six Christmases she had already spent in the world, which were received with an eager attention as if they had been so many fairy tales. When their recital was over, and the two had read a chapter and said their usual simple evening prayer, Granny lay down on her stretcher, and Martin crept into his own little "flock" nest, where in five minutes he was in a sound, dreamless sleep, undisturbed even by any vision of Santa Claus or coming Christmas boxes.

CHAPTER III.

Christmas morning, bright and clear! Yesterday's dark storm-cloud all rolled away, and the sun shining on the crystallized snowflakes till their white expanse sparkled like a vast diamond field, with all the gems newly cut and polished. Little Martin rose early, but somehow the world, bright as it looked, felt more shadowed to him to-day than it had done under yesterday's gloom and sleet. Granny had awoke quite ill; the cold had got into her bones, increasing her rheumatism and obliging her to remain in bed, so that of course she would not be able to get to church or see the "green wreaths." However, poor Martin had not so much time as a rich child might command for indulging in sad or disappointed reflections. He had first the fire to light; then to prepare breakfast; then to make poor suffering granny eat some; then to partake of the meal himself; and then to wash up the bowls and plates and cooking saucepans. Then—a knock came to the door, a quick imperative tapping; he opened hastily, and there entered the two young ladies from the Castle, carrying between them a "big, big basket."

"We come from Santa Claus!" announced Effie.

"Santa Claus!"—Martin looked bewildered—never indeed (as Miss Dermott had supposed) having even heard of this liberal "gentleman," he remained perfectly mystified, until Annette explained more intelligibly the reason and motive of their visit, at the same time untying the cord and exhibiting the collection of Christmas-boxes. As one after another the divers C's rolled out, the riddle slowly solved itself to the mind of the astonished little recipient.

"Oh, granny!" he cried, rushing into the inner room, with the old warm cloak in one hand and a package of cake in the other. "Oh, granny! see what Christmas-boxes the young ladies have brought us!"

"God bless them for dear young ladies, and grant them many happy Christmases!" ejaculated old granny fervently. She little dreamt, poor simple soul! with what indifference that latter wish of hers would only twenty-four hours ago have been received by the "young ladies." Now, however they listened half-terrorfully as they gazed round the poor dwelling, and noted the joy and gratitude awakened in its humble inmates by this basket of "mere trifles"—common necessities of life.



GRANNY READING.

"Feel! Of course not!" Annette smiled too. "Now, how shall we get conveyed to Martin this little softener of his harder lot!" she continued in a gayer tone, pointing to the basket.

"You and Effie must yourselves in person bring it to him; but it will be time enough to-morrow. Santa Claus never goes round till Christmas morning."

CHAPTER II.

Meanwhile beneath the heavy white shower, little Martin Daly was wending his way homewards. The snowflakes saturated his thin jacket, powdered his hair, and dropped in soft masses on his cap, as he passed under the thickly laden fir boughs. He was wet, and cold, and hungry, but he was neither angry, nor disgusted, nor impatient with the weather or anything else. On the contrary, he felt inwardly very bright and happy on this outwardly dark "tiresome evening." For although he had been a bit disappointed Miss Dermott did not come downstairs to hear how "beautiful" her "wreath" looked in the church, still she

dry yourself."

"It's snowin' pretty hard," he returned, shaking off his dripping cap and jacket. He did not go and change his wet things for dry ones, for as yet he possessed but one set of garments in the world. However, being accustomed, young as he was, to brave all kinds of weather, and wear wet clothes, he did not mind either much, and they seldom gave him cold. Granny drew him to the hearth, stirred the fire to a brighter flame, lit a candle, and then, whilst she dished up the supper, he stood contentedly warming his little, cold, bare feet on the hot hearthstone, and telling all about his day's work in the church.

"It looks grand, an' you'll see it to-morrow, granny."

"Praise goodness, if the rheumatism doesn't catch me too tight."

"An' Miss Dermott sent me down this shillin' when I came back from the church—a shillin' for jurt keepin' the wreaths straight for the gardener to nail—wasn't that good, granny?"

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"Is it because presents are 'new to them?' speculated Effie, while Annette, something stirring her more deeply, went up to speak to the sick woman, who was repeating her usual words.

"I could almost venture to church in that fine warm cloak, miss."

"To church?" those words pricked Annette's conscience. A wonderful change had come over her naturally proud spirit since yesterday. She turned almost humbly to Martin.

"I should have asked you last evening how your work in the church got on, but I felt stupidly vexed because I could not oversee it myself; but I am sure that you and the gardener took great pains with it, and that it looks very nice."

"Ay, indeed it does, miss," returned Martin, as pleased by the kind words as if a new addition were made to the store of presents which Effie was arranging in order upon the table. "Mr. Plant did all exact to your orders, miss, an' it's grand."

"I am sure it is," repeated Annette; then, after a moment or two longer contemplating Martin's happiness in his Christmas-boxes, she and Effie ran home.

"Well?" asked Cousin Charlie, as the two girls entered his sitting-room.

"Oh, he was delighted, enchanted, charmed!" they responded in chorus. "He liked everything, even the 'cards.' He called them 'pretty pictures.'"

"Good little boy!" patronizingly pronounced Ronald, whose spirits had revived at the prospect of the frozen pond promised of "splendid skating," quite reconciling him to the loss of the hunt. "Did Santa Claus bring you the doll with real hair, Effie?"

"Yes, I got one, just the kind I wished for. I think every thing is turning out nice this Christmas; and nothing was nicer than to see how glad poor Martin was over his Christmas-boxes; and bringing them to him was better than even getting the doll, though I like her very much, too."

"It is more blessed to give than to receive," said cousin Charlie?

"Yes, it is," spoke Annette. "And it is really so easy to give great pleasure," she added, with a little sigh.

"Annette told me coming home," went on Effie, "that this new year she would have her 'trees' for all the poor children about, who never have any trees of their own; and Martin will come too, and they will all get presents. Won't they like that, cousin Charlie?"

"I'm quite sure they will. What a 'happy thought' of Annette's!"

"No, not mine altogether; only a continuation of yours yesterday."

"All the poor little children will get presents," repeated Effie. "It is too good even to think of."

"Very good, and better still to 'think,' Effie, of the one great 'present' God gave to the whole world eighteen hundred and eighty odd years ago. It is, you know, in commemoration of this great gift we keep Christmas, and all our little tokens given and received at this season, are in memory of the Divine good-will then shown to all mankind. This is why people are expected to be especially loving, and kind, and charitably disposed towards each other, at Christmas."

"I am afraid, then, we have never fulfilled such expectations. At least I am sure I have not!" rejoined Annette sadly.

"Well, it is 'never too late to mend,' you know," spoke cousin Charlie pleasantly. "Remember, too, it was altogether a 'new way' of spending Christmas we were trying to 'invent' whilst those 'tiresome' snowflakes—"

"No, not tiresome," interrupted Annette, "whilst those pretty inspiring snowflakes fell on Christmas Eve."—*E. Nob.*

HARVEST-HOME.

BY ERNEST GILMORE.

It was nearing the time of the Harvest-Home.

"We're going to have things up to the last notch," said Farmer Greene's wife to her nearest neighbor, Farmer Doane's wife, who had walked over a distance of half a mile for a friendly chat. "We will begin to-morrow making preparations. Such a pile of work to be done! 'Bakin' and brewin', an' 'bollin' an' 'stewin' for so many men and boys, not to speak of the women and children—the women to help wait on the men, and the children to follow their mothers,

If I do say it, it's as true as law and gospel that Nathan does like to make a splurge at Harvest-Home, never thinking what drudges it makes of the women folks. But if there's one thing more than another that Nathan prides himself on, it's my currant wine." And a glow of pride overspread Mrs. Nathan Greene's comely face. "And 'tis good if I do say it. Henrietta, run and bring Mrs. Doane a glass of that wine we opened for dinner. Bring two glasses—one—or here, Henrietta, supposing you just bring the bottle and three glasses, of course you'll want one yourself."

As Henrietta, a bright-faced, healthy young girl, went to do her mother's bidding the latter said, "These children do love mother's wine so."

"I don't wonder they love it," said Mrs. Doane (who seemed willing to be thrown entirely in the shade by her prosperous neighbor) as she sipped the delicious wine given to her by her hostess. "I've tried my best, and I think my wine is good, but it can't compare with yours."

"Come, mother, give a tired fellow a glass of wine," said little Ben Greene, rushing up the steps of the broad veranda where the ladies were sitting. Ben was as fine a specimen of robust boyhood as one ever sees—handsome too, and very winsome. He had a smiling face and honest blue eyes, and his heavy hair was wet with perspiration just now. When his mother poured out the glass of wine he took it quickly and drank every drop, saying laughingly, as he returned the empty glass to her, "There's no wine like mother's wine, it has such a delightful twang, and touches the right spot every time."

Strange how blind some mothers are. Strange that instead of Ben's suggestive remark arousing fear in those two mothers' hearts, it only pleased them, and they both laughed. Ben's mother saying as he turned away, "Such a boy!" And then after he was out of hearing, adding, "I don't believe I have a favorite among my four children, but if I have, it is Ben."

Dear, precious Ben! he seemed to be everybody's favorite. His sunny face was welcomed everywhere. He was the small boys' champion, although only twelve years old himself. He was the big boys' admiration, the daring, venturesome, ever-ready-for-a-good-time Ben Greene. He was envied by more than one mother, and Mrs. Doane was one of the envious number.

"He is a boy to be proud of; so bright, so full of life and health," she said with a sigh; "if only my little Charlie was like him."

"How is Charlie?" asked Mrs. Greene kindly.

"Effie is getting as thin as a rail, and I feel if he keeps on this way for a few weeks longer he will vanish entirely."

"I am very sorry. He must be sure to come over to Harvest-Home; he needs't work any, but he will have a good time only looking on."

It was the day preceding Farmer Greene's Harvest-Home that a gentleman arrived at Farmer Doane's; it was Mrs. Doane's uncle. Not having seen his niece since her marriage he was warmly welcomed by her. He was a sunny-hearted, sunny faced man, but a cloud overspread his face as he noticed the run down condition of the farm, the crops being poor, and all things bore the impress of neglect.

"You see, 'twould be different if Daniel was well," apologized Mrs. Doane, "but he isn't able to see to things generally, and so we kind of drift along."

"All wrong, all wrong," said uncle Richard decidedly; "one can't fight the battle of life drifting, one must steer. If your husband isn't able to see to his farm he ought either to sell it or get a head to run it."

"You ought to see Farmer's Greene's farm, and you can if you choose," said Charlie Doane; "we're all going over there to-morrow to Harvest-Home, and won't it be jolly if such a lunch as they have! Sandwiches, and biscuits, and cold chicken, and corned beef, and pickles, and cheese, and pies, and cakes, and the best of wine and—"

"Wine!" exclaimed uncle Richard. "Surely you children don't touch wine."

"Why not?" asked Charlie, surprised, "it's good wine and mother loves it."

Uncle Richard looked at his niece soberly who asked: "Why, where's the harm in drinking home-made wine at Harvest-Home?"

Uncle Richard explained in a long serious talk wherein the harm consisted; it stood out very distinctly before his niece and her

two boys, Charlie aged twelve, and Ray, aged eight.

"Promise me, boys, that you will never drink wine again; you will not be sorry."

They promised, and so did their mother; and the next day when they saw Ben Greene lifted from the grass where he had fallen heavily, and carried into his house, they were not sorry that they had refused the sparkling wine.

Years rolled on—twenty of them—again uncle Richard comes to visit Farmer Doane's. This time broad, rich fields greet him—there is a rich harvest to be gathered.

"They've been sowing good seed and laboring untriflingly, and they now have their reward," he said in great delight.

Ray is still unmarried, and at home, the head of the farm; but Uncle Richard misses Charlie's face, and inquires for him.

"You will have to be introduced to him; you will never recognize him, he is so changed. After dinner we will drive over and see Charlie."

"Going to call at Farmer Greene's? I thought you were after Charlie; I am anxious to see him," said Uncle Richard a little later, as they drove into the spacious, beautiful grounds that had once belonged to Farmer Greene, but were now owned by Charlie Doane.

A healthy, happy young man came out quickly to greet the party; it was Charlie, and clinging to his hands were two wholesome, laughing children—they were Charlie's, and in the door-way stood a sweet-faced, smiling lady; it was Charlie's wife.

"I can hardly believe what I see," said Uncle Richard, as Charlie grasped his hand and led him into a delightful, roomy house; "what a change! what a change!"

"Under God, it is all owing to you, Uncle Richard. I was a little fellow when I saw you before, but what you said that night before the Harvest-Home stirred me strangely; it stirred us all, somehow, for things picked up after that, and when father stopped drinking wine his head grew clear, and things did not drift any more; it seemed so good to see him able to run the farm again. I resolved then to sow some seed that would bring us joy, not sorrow."

"A wise resolve; but where are the Greenses?" asked Uncle Richard, in a voice husky with deep emotion.

"If you are not too tired we will take a short walk, and I will tell you where they are."

They walked down the back-yard path, heavy on either side with luscious fruitage, crossed a meadow, and reached a little country burial-place.

"Mr. Greene and his two daughters have moved away to some distant place," there deep the mother and her two sons. "Charlie pointed to three grass-grown graves, upon whose slabs Uncle Richard read with moist eyes, "Mother Greene, aged 50," "Benson Greene, aged 20," "Harold Greene, aged 18."

"She sowed the seed of a maddened brain, when she gave her bright, beautiful boys the wine that proved to be their ruin; she was insane for two years before her death."—*YOUTH'S TEMPERANCE BANNER.*

DOMESTIC TRAINING FOR CHILDREN.

Children soon tire of toys, for there is no satisfactory result. Whatever grown persons may think of the wee ones, they are in their own conceit little men and women, and like to disport themselves accordingly; they like to be helpful, to be of importance, and to be thought important.

Monday mornings always bring the linen-sorting and setting down for the laundress, and the clean things need overlooking as to want of buttons, tapes, and mending fractures in the wash. A child may be brought to find amusement in the work, and in due time to become a real help. The mistake that mothers make is, they don't want to be troubled with a child while their work is in progress. Of course the child's help is none, but oftentimes a hindrance, yet the probable future should never be forgotten, for only in this way can a child be properly taught domestic work, and indeed be kept out of mischief, which is surely improperly directed energy.

Either girl or boy is delighted to meddle with a fire, and it is a good plan to show them how to build one in two ways, each on a useful principle, literally "scientific," inasmuch as each is adapted to the purpose

required of it, and "science" is the best adaptation of means to a given end.

A little girl might be taught when very young the right principles of domestic work: be taught to wash breakfast-things in very hot water, and as each article is washed to plunge it, while hot, into cold water, thus to be certain that the china will be clean, as it cannot be by any other method.

Glasses should be washed in cold water, never in warm, unless milk has been put in them, or custards, and then, after washing them in warm water, each must be rinsed in cold. And the reason for this is that hot water never cleans the glass. And also if it were permitted careless servants would put a glass under a tap of boiling water, and so suddenly expand it that it would at once snap.

And if it be actually necessary to put hot water into a tumbler, a very little should be poured into the glass so as to cause the thick part to become thoroughly heated before the thin part is so, otherwise the thin portion would expand by the heat and crack, while the thick part remained cold. Also a child might be taught that it is safe to put a glass on a hot hearth and let it gradually warm, when there would be no danger of its cracking, because the heat is equal throughout the glass. This is a lesson which a child will readily understand and probably never forget. It is in the A B C of domestic training, the alphabet of "How to do things properly," that the children may, without being aware of it, learn invaluable knowledge; and whether they take to domestic work or not, it is a knowledge of simple matters that they will hereafter reap advantage from, and very particularly so in good cookery.—*Cottage Hearth.*

POTATO PUFFS.—Chop and season well some cold meat or fish. Mash some potatoes and make them into a paste with an egg. Roll it out, and cut round with a saucer, put your seasoned meat on one half, and fold the other over like a puff. Fry a light brown, and serve hot.

Question Corner.—No. 24.

BIBLE QUESTIONS.

1. Where is the prophecy in the Old Testament that Christ should be born in Bethlehem?
2. What is the first prophecy of Christ in the Bible?
3. What was Jacob's prophecy of Christ?
4. What was Baalam's prophecy of Christ?
5. Give two prophecies, one in Isaiah and one in Malachi, referring to John the Baptist.
6. What chapter of Isaiah is entirely occupied with a description of Christ?

SCRIPTURE ENIGMA.

Arrange the words in the form of a diamond.

The key to the whole is contained in the answer to the sixth question, and the central letters of each word together express the same.

1. A consonant.
2. A Hebrew prefix signifying son.
3. A father petitioned by his daughter for springs of water.
4. One of the Cities of Refuge.
5. The bearer of a scornful message from a mighty king to the people of Judah.
6. The type of "our Prophet, Priest, and King."
7. A glad name, by which Zion is one day to be called.
8. The faithful servant of a man distinguished for his faith.
9. An early convert to the Apostolic church.
10. The sea, a passage through which was miraculously effected.
11. A consonant.

ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUESTIONS IN NO. 22.

1. Cana 2. Herod. 3. Innocents. 4. Lamb.
5. Dove. 6. Redeemer. 7. Emmanuel. 8. Nathanael. 9. Oliver. 10. Bethlehem. 11. Elizabeth. 12. York. 13. Youth. 14. Vincent.
15. Unwashed. 16. Resurrection. 17. Peter. 18. Ash. 19. Rock. 20. Egypt. 21. Nicodemus.
22. Thomas. 23. Simon. 24. Intercession. 25. Nazareth. 26. Andrew. 27. Lazarus. 28. Lord's Supper. 29. Turtle Doves. 30. High Priest. 31. Isaac. 32. Nain. 33. Gabriel. 34. Saviour.

ENTAILS.—Children obey your parents in all things. Written by Paul, Col 3:20. CORRECT ANSWERS RECEIVED. Correct answers have been received from Albert Jesse French, Bolla F. Christie, Charles Reid, and Willie S. Paik.

The Temperance Worker

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27.

THE SCOTT ACT CAMPAIGN.

The following additional polling days have been fixed:—

Kent, Ont., Thursday, 15th of January.
 Lanark, Ont., Thursday, 15th of January.
 Lennox and Addington, Ont., Thursday, 15th of January.
 Guelph (city), Ont., Thursday, 15th of January.

Brome, Que., Thursday, 15th of January.
 Carleton, Ont., Thursday, 29th of January.
 It will thus be seen that five contests have been fixed for the 15th of January, and that day should be made a red letter day in the history of the Scott Act by marking five victories.

OTTAWA COUNTY.—The Rev. D. V. Lucas lectured to good audiences at Aylmer two evenings last week and held an afternoon conference of temperance workers, the Rev. Geo. Jamieson, president of the county alliance, being in the chair. Steps were taken toward preparing for a Scott Act campaign in the County of Ottawa next summer. Mr. Lucas had an interview with the Hon. Mr. Scott, who lives in the county, to solicit his co-operation. Success in the contest rests largely with the Roman Catholic Bishop of Ottawa, whom Mr. Scott has promised to see.

RICHMOND.—The Rev. Frederick Powell has held a series of temperance meetings in Richmond, Melbourne Ridge, and Rockland, and many persons are anxious to bring on a Scott Act contest.

BRANTFORD.—The temperance people of Brantford do not feel that they are yet beaten, although the contest on the 11th went against them, and they are holding meetings and will appoint an organizer for a new campaign.

PONTIAC.—A grand meeting in Pontiac was addressed by the Rev. Messrs. Scott, Gaudier, and Gomery, and a resolution was carried favoring the adoption of the Scott Act in the county of Pontiac.

KENT.—At a meeting held in Chatham the methods of carrying on the campaign in Kent were considered, and it was announced that the ministers in Chatham intend making a personal canvass. The temperance workers have very properly determined to work with might and main, although they have no fear of defeat, and this should be done in every county, as every vote for the Act helps to make it easier to enforce. A rumor is circulated through the county to the effect that the "Antis" had had resolved to let the Act be carried by default, but this the temperance people consider as a dodge to put them off their guard and they will not slacken in their efforts for any such rumor.

SIMCOE.—It is feared that on account of the protest entered by the Anti-Scott Act party the Act cannot possibly come into force into the county until at least a year after the 1st of May, 1885, the interval being taken up with legal squabbling. As the *Orillia Packet* says, the Act was passed by an overwhelming majority, and the will of the people, thus expressed ought not to be thwarted, even for a year by legal quibbling.

LEEDS AND GRENVILLE.—The united counties of Leeds and Grenville did their duty nobly on Thursday last, passing the Act by the handsome majority of over

600. As might be expected, Prescott town gave a large majority (253) against the Act, the brewery and distillery influence being very strong there, but of 23 voting places seventeen went in favor of the Act.

HOW ALCOHOL AIDS DIGESTION.

Dr. Norman Kerr, referring to the subject of alcohol and digestion, writes: "So far from aiding in digestion intoxicating liquors actually hinder this vital process. Again and again, on examining after death the bodies of men who have died suddenly, I have found large quantities of food which had been hindered from being digested by strong drink taken a few hours before. The presence of an intoxicant in the stomach markedly interferes with the digestive act. True, if you take half a glass of brandy after eating too hearty a meal, you may feel temporary relief, but you have not digested the food. You have only made the nerves of sensation—God's messengers in the living body—drunk, so that they cannot do their duty; they cannot deliver their message to the brain that the stomach has been oppressed by excess in eating. The more any one is troubled with indigestion, the more need is there to avoid using agents which arrest and retard digestion. Hence the most frequent cause of the terrible amount of that scourge of life—dyspepsia—in our country at the present time, is the use of intoxicating drinks. There must be moderation in eating solid food, as there must be in the drinking of water and other wholesome non-intoxicants, but the general abandonment of the habit of drinking inebriating beverages would cause the greater part of the indigestion and its attendant miseries to cease from the land."

HOW THEY DO IT IN SOUTH AFRICA.

A young gentleman residing in Bethlehem, Orange State, writing home to his friends in Glasgow, gives the following as to the working of the Liquor Law in the Free Orange State:—

"The Liquor Law is very strict. For instance, a wife with a drunken husband can apply to the magistrate and have his drink stopped. A notice is posted up at each of the hotels, and any person supplying liquor to him will be fined £25. The same thing can be done if a man owes you money. By applying to the court you can have his drink stopped—that is, if he is found drinking. At present there are four in this position—first an attorney, then a doctor (L.L.D.), then a law agent, and last of all the shoemaker. I wish the shoemaker had been stopped the week before, and I would not have lost my good boots."

A DEBBEH despatch says a rumor of the Mudir reports that El Mahdi has sent 14,000 reinforcements to Oman Digna, who is encamped near Berber waiting for the advance of the English.

MRS. MARY FITCH FOLGER, aged 100 years and eleven months, died at Hudson, N.Y., on Monday night. She retained her faculties in a remarkable degree to the last.

O'LEARY, the well known Fenian residing in Paris, has been invited to stand for parliament for Tipperary, but has declined.

LOUISE MICHEL, the French Anarchist, who played so prominent a part in the commune rising of 1870, is dead.

M. DUMAS, the celebrated author and dramatist, has been made a Commander of the Legion of Honor.

THE WEEK.

NEWS COMES from Vienna to the effect that on the 7th instant Nihilists attempted to wreck a railway train carrying the Czar to St. Petersburg.

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT has given instructions to the admiralty to prepare plans of concerted operations for the defence of the British colonies.

JAMES ELLIS FRENCH, formerly director of the Irish detective department, has been convicted at Dublin, after three trials, of unnatural offences, and has been sentenced to three years' imprisonment.

A VERY SEVERE STORM broke upon the Irish coast on the 20th, and, up to latest advices was still raging. Much damage has been done; and fears are entertained that there will be great loss at sea.

A SILVER BRICK from Mexico, weighing 4,200 pounds has arrived at the New Orleans Exposition. It is valued at \$200,000.

A MAN NAMED J. R. Wilcox, of Irvington, Ga., anticipating another civil war, saved up \$3,000 in gold, and hid it in an old trunk. Alas! thieves bored a hole through the floor, and stole the money!

SOME PARTICULARS have leaked out regarding the latest attempt on the life of the Emperor of Russia. The attempt was made upon the occasion of the recent *fete* of the chevaliers of St. George. The rails on the Gatchina line, over which the Czar's train passed, were found loosened at a certain spot. A soldier on guard at the place where the train was expected to leave the rails, was afterwards found murdered.

THERE WERE 367 failures in the United States during the past week.

BUSINESS is very dull in England. Great difficulty is experienced in selling goods.

THE STEAMER "Oxenholme" has arrived at Queenstown from New York, having encountered terrific weather. She was upon her beam ends most of the time, and lost most of her cattle.

THE BRITISH war office has decided to arm the volunteers with Martini instead of Snider Rifles.

THE SCOTCH chamber of agriculture has issued an address to the landlords and people demanding an immediate reduction in rents on the ground that the depression in the agricultural industry appears to be permanent. It is proposed that a Royal Commission be appointed to take measures to alleviate the present urgent distress.

RESPECTING the Madagascar blockade, Vice Admiral Peyron recently stated in the French Chamber of Deputies that five stations on the coast of the island had been occupied by the French, but that a complete blockade was impossible owing to the extent of coast line. The cost of the expedition is said to amount to twelve million francs.

THE ISABELLA BLAST FURNACE Co. of Pittsburg has ordered a reduction of ten per cent in wages of all employees. To offset this, however, the rents of the company's houses have been reduced ten per cent.

AN OBSERVING traveller in the West says that the way a western town is built is about as follows: A name is given to the locality, a shanty is built, a newspaper started, and a post office established. A railway must then be procured, handbills and circulars be distributed through the Eastern States, a few residents come, some buildings, always a saloon, are erected, and the town is well on the way cityward.

THERE WERE in round numbers one hundred thousand men in the army that conquered Mexico, and the entire losses did not exceed twenty percent, leaving eighty thousand men of the average age of twenty-eight years discharged in 1847.

AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY in London important alterations are being made. What is known as the Turner Gallery has been completely removed to make way for a new staircase leading to new galleries in the rear. Turner's works, meanwhile, are housed in the room to the left—where the Landseers and Maclises used to be—a room in which they receive a great deal of needed light.

A SERIOUS FIRE broke out in the Catholic Male Orphan Asylum, Brooklyn, on Friday last, the 19th instant, in which there were 785 orphans. The flames spread with great rapidity, and in a short time the buildings were almost wholly destroyed. Many thrilling scenes took place. The superiors labored heroically at the work of rescue. Twenty-two bodies have been recovered from the ruins.

AT DES MOINES, Iowa, during a strike of miners, the latter surrounded the sheriff, and his posse of military; and according to the latest accounts, they are holding them as prisoners.

AT BUFFALO it appears that several large confectioners are in the habit of coloring their sweetmeats with chrome yellow, arsenic, and aniline—all deadly poisons. The board of Health is acting promptly in the matter.

AT CINCINNATI, on the 16th inst., John B. Hoffman was hanged for the murder of his son. He wept while listening to the death warrant, and begged not to be denounced in the papers. He had to be held while being handcuffed, and was supported on the scaffold by two men.

THE SKYE CROFTERS again declare that they will not pay rents till the same are reduced.

THE SMALL-POX continues to excite alarm in London, England. A great many fatalities have already occurred.

OWING to the recent attempt to blow up London Bridge with dynamite, great precautions have been taken by the authorities. Extra guards of soldiers and police have been placed around Buckingham palace; and most of the government buildings are especially watched.

THE IRISH NATIONALISTS propose, in case the government should attempt to renege the Crimes Act, to move the impeachment of Earl Spencer.

THE TOTAL EMIGRATION to the United States from the British Isles during November was 7,499.

A SAD STORY comes from Baltimore. A young lady named Miss Mary Brannon, who had been led astray by a "gentleman" named Wickershaw, disappeared from Baltimore about three years ago. She returned, and led a sinful life. She was frequently arrested, but, owing to the high position of her friends, she was always handed over to them. Latterly her conduct became so bad that they had her placed in the House of Correction. Here she seemed to realize her degraded condition and stated that she could never face her friends again. A few days ago she left the institution and was not heard of till her mangled corpse was found, on the 12th inst., on the track of the Baltimore & Ohio Railway. Deceased is described as having been exceedingly beautiful. Her betrayer died two months ago after a debauch.

[For the *Weekly Messenger*.

A NEW YEAR.

"Therefore I will not fear."—Ps. xlv. 2.

I know not what may be life's length,
Or whether I shall close this year;
My God's my refuge, and my strength,
"Therefore I will not fear."

How many sorrows may befall
The treasured friends I hold most dear!
My Father knows, and orders all,
"Therefore I will not fear."

The future dimly spread to view,
To nature's eye seems bleak and drear;
My gracious God is faithful, true,
"Therefore I will not fear."

The saints in other days were tried,
The Word sufficed their souls to cheer;
A changeless God their need supplied,
Therefore will I not fear.

Yes, Jesus, Thou wilt yet provide,
And tell me Thou art ever near;
Thy Spirit shall be still my Guide,
"Therefore I will not fear."

And if the sound of Jordan's waves
Should fall upon my listening ear,
I know that Thou wilt burst the graves,—
"Therefore I will not fear."

ELIZA J. WHEELER.

Leicester, Eng.

THE OPENING of the New Orleans exposition has been a grand affair. Ten thousand chairs placed in the hall and galleries were soon filled, and every available standing place in the aisles occupied. Thousands gathered at either side of the hall, from which a view of the platform could be obtained. The Rev. Mr. Talmage made the opening prayer, president Richardson then addressed the president of the United States, his words being telegraphed to Washington, detailing a history of the exposition. President Arthur's address in reply was then read, and at the conclusion of the service declaring the world's exposition now open, President Arthur closed the electric current and the machinery was put in motion.

DISQUIETING NEWS comes from Paris. Large numbers of workmen have been out of employment for a long time; and those who have been working have only been earning the lowest possible wages. The consequence is that a very bitter feeling prevails, and that rumors of insurrection are in the air. This news comes at a moment when it is proposed to place a tax on bread; and the workmen only need a popular cry like this to hurry them into violence in the matter, the arrest of the guilty parties being arranged for should the practice be continued.

THE FACTS relating to the murder of a saloon-keeper at Bladensburg, Ohio, have come to light. A wholesale liquor dealer of Mount Vernon sent a stock of liquors to Bladensburg, and put them in charge of the murdered man. On the night of the Democratic jollification a crowd became drunk and noisy, and Anson, in endeavoring to put them out of the saloon, received the fatal injuries. While he was unconscious a crowd of drunken ruffians gutted the saloon. The facts carry with them an obvious moral.

P. J. SLOCUM, a school-teacher, at Horse Cave, Kentucky, received threatening letters, to the effect that if he did not leave the town he would be waited on. He did not leave. On Saturday night week, a mob surrounded his house. He fired, killing one man and wounding several others, and a number of horses. He is at present under arrest.

A HONG KONG despatch says that large quantities of arms and ammunition have arrived there by German steamers, and have been forwarded to the reinforcements sent to the Tonquin frontier.

MILLAIS' portrait of Lord Lorne, late governor-general of Canada, has been shipped to the National Art Gallery of Canada.

DON CARLOS, who, a few years ago, caused so much trouble in Spain, is suffering from a dangerous disease of the throat, and, in order to preserve his life, he has taken the advice of his doctors, and gone to spend the winter in India.

SOME DESPERADO is rapidly putting the witnesses in the famous Corcoran liquor case out of the way. A witness named John Ward was beaten nearly to death a week ago by an unknown man, and on the 16th Thomas Rivlin, another witness was brought to the city Hospital, Boston, suffering from a severe wound under the left eye. The police are at present unable to locate the mysterious assailant.

GREAT WANT and suffering prevails in Chicago. Eighteen hundred men are upon the books of the county agent, and rolling mill men are seeking relief—a class who have not hitherto been applicants.

THE GAMBLING HOUSES in the city of Mexico, closed on the advent of the new administration, have been licensed and will run under official surveillance.

THE STRIKE of Woonsocket, R. I. Weavers throws 1,700 looms idle and, 1,500 people out of employment.

IN DENVER, U. S., business is practically suspended, owing to the unprecedented fall of snow, which is piled up in the streets to the depth of ten feet. Many cabins have been crushed by the weight of snow. Several lines of railway are blocked.

MRS. EMMA BRITTON, aged 40, a member of one of the oldest and wealthiest families on Staten Island, New York, has married Tommy McLaughlin, her coachman, aged 21.

THE UNITED STATES SENATE has adopted a resolution to appoint a Commission to examine into the liquor traffic.

FIVE of the United States have now secured the compulsory temperance education law.

IN BOYLSTON, Mass., the home of John B. Gough, there have been no saloons for many years, and consequently, Mr. Gough says, the constable has nothing to do, and the gaol has no inmates except a few tramps who come from adjacent licensed villages.

A BLOW to the use of alcohol in medicine is given by Professor C. Gilbert Wheeler, an eminent chemist, of Chicago, who says that he does not know of the drug in medicine which cannot be prepared for use as well without alcohol as with it.

A PARTY of immigrants from Canada arrived on Monday morning last in Petersburg, Va., en route for North Carolina. This is the third lot that has passed through here for the south within a week, and others are to follow.

IN LEIPSIK, Germany, the trial of the dynamiters who attempted the life of the Emperor at Neiderwald is in progress. Reinsdorf confessed that he inspired the plot, and that he instructed the other prisoners how to employ the dynamite in the execution of it. If he had not been ill he probably would have committed the assassination himself. The working men must labor, he said, for their freedom, and action was the only efficacious method.

PROSPECTUS FOR 1885.

In issuing once again our Prospectus of the *Witness* publications, we ask the friends of temperance to take hold of it, and try to enlist everybody as a subscriber, and, if possible, as a worker in the cause. There is first

THE WITNESS,

which has now reached figures of circulation which show the growth of right sentiments in the country and whose recent increase suggests the possibility of further rapid progress.

THE WEEKLY WITNESS,
(\$1.00 per annum.)

which was started in the winter of 1845-6, has now a circulation of 40,900. In our last prospectus we asked for an increase of 5,000. Our present figures show an increase of 8,800 over those when we issued our Prospectus for 1884. Some of the new names, it is true, are short time subscribers. We hope that these will not only renew their subscriptions but become advocates of the paper like their older fellow-subscribers. This being so promising a season, we boldly ask our friends to try to make the subscription list up to 50,000.

THE DAILY WITNESS
(\$3.00 per annum.)

has at present 13,000 subscribers, which number, for a paper that opposes many things that are popular, is a marvellous one. The *Witness* does not, of course, confine itself to the advocacy of temperance. It is a newspaper of the first rank, keeping its readers thoroughly informed on all departments of current thought and events, among which temperance holds no more than its place. Moreover, it speaks the mind of its conductors on all subjects.

THE MESSENGER

is now in its nineteenth year as a semi-monthly and its third as a weekly.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER
(50 cents per annum.)

already has a circulation of 7,600 all over the continent, and gives the news and abundant good reading, along with the Sunday-school lessons and a diligent advocacy of the temperance cause.

THE NORTHERN MESSENGER
(30 Cents per annum.)

twice a month, gives the family reading and the Sunday-school lessons, and is largely circulated through Sunday-schools.

Lastly, for the Scott Act campaign within Canada, for the advocacy of Prohibition and nothing else, we recommend for distribution

WAR NOTES

(\$1 for 20 copies weekly for three months.)

The good work done by this lively little paper, we are glad to learn from many sources, is already great. In its columns all the arguments for and against the liquor-traffic are dealt with, and the temperance worker finds *War Notes* one of his best helps.

CLUBBING.

Our clubbing arrangements have, during the past two years, proved so satisfactory that we again repeat them. They are as follows:—

The price of the *WEEKLY WITNESS* is \$1.00 a year, postage paid. When *THREE* subscriptions are sent together in one envelope the price will be *EIGHTY CENTS* each, or

\$2.40 in all—a deduction of one-fifth. When *FOUR* subscriptions are sent together in one envelope the price to each will be *SEVENTY FIVE CENTS*, or \$3.00 in all—a deduction of one-fourth. When *TEN* subscriptions are sent together in one envelope the price will be *SEVENTY CENTS* each, or \$7 in all—a deduction of nearly one-third.

The price of the *DAILY WITNESS* is \$3 per annum, free of postage; *TWO* subscriptions sent together \$5.50; *Three* sent together, \$8.

A single copy of the *WEEKLY MESSENGER* will be sent for 50c a year, or *FIVE* copies subscribed for at one time for *TWO DOLLARS*.

Copies of the *NORTHERN MESSENGER* are 30c each per annum; *TEN* copies to one address \$2.50; *TWENTY-FIVE* copies, \$6; *FIFTY* copies, \$11.50; *ONE HUNDRED* copies \$22.

In addition to the above deductions we will present to any person sending us *TWENTY* subscriptions to the *Weekly Witness* at 70 cents each; *SIX* subscriptions to the *Daily Witness*, at \$2.65 each; *TWENTY-FIVE* subscriptions to the *Weekly Messenger*, at 40c each, or *FIFTY* subscriptions to the *Northern Messenger* at 25c each. A *PRIZE* of a handsome group of the portraits of the *LEADING JOURNALISTS OF CANADA*, with signatures, and fac similes of their respective papers.

This fine picture is by Root & Tinker, of New York, and is a splendid work of art and certain to be greatly appreciated. When sending in names of subscribers our workers should head their lists with the words "For Picture." We hope our friends will be so energetic as to compel us to send away some thousands of copies of this interesting picture.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

All subscribers to the *Daily* or *Weekly Witness*, who renew their subscriptions before they expire, or become new subscribers between now and December 31st, are to be presented this year with a *FINE ART-TYPE PICTURE OF THE FOUNDER OF THIS PAPER*, who is, we believe, the oldest of Canadian journalists, and whose labors in the cause of religious liberty, temperance, and every other reform were well known to a past generation, and his likeness will be greeted by our older subscribers as that of an old friend. It is now approaching forty years since Mr. Dougall started the *Witness* as an independent defender of true religion and good morals without denominational preference, and of civil and religious liberty without party bias or bondage. On these lines, it is needless to say, it has unwaveringly acted ever since, giving its own views on every public question at whatever cost of popularity or of favor from parties, churches, social bodies or classes of men. Mr. Dougall has for the past fifteen years, been doing a like work in the United States, whither he was drawn by crying needs of the city populations in view of the degraded character of the cheaper newspapers. While not succeeding, so far, in the special aim of supplying the masses in cities with an elevating daily press, his paper, the *New York Witness*, has attained an enormous circulation and has become a centre of the temperance movement which is gaining ground so rapidly, and of much of the earnest Christian life of the United States. To any subscriber who may prefer it, we will send, instead of the portrait of Mr. Dougall, a *FIRST CLASS ENGRAVING* of that fine painting of Gabriel Max's—"THE LION'S BRIDE," a *POURTRAIT OF ROBERT BURNS*, Scotland's great poet, or a *POURTRAIT OF GENERAL GORDON*, the hero of the Sudan. All the above mentioned pictures will be on fine plate paper, and be worthy of a place in any house in Canada. The picture chosen will be sent to all old subscribers who renew promptly—that is, before their subscriptions run out,—and to every new subscriber who sends in his or her name before the 31st of December. We hope that all our friends will send in their subscriptions in time and thus receive a picture.

THE GIRL CAPTAIN OF CASTLE DANGEROUS.

Not far from Montreal, on the St. Lawrence River, lies the quiet little village of Vercheres. It is this little village that was once the "Castle Dangerous" of Canada, and here it was that three children "held the fort" against a horde of howling Iroquois.

In October, 1692, M. De Vercheres, a French officer, was with his regiment at Quebec; his wife was at Montreal. Their three children were at Vercheres—Mary Madeleine, a girl of fourteen, and her brothers, Louis and Alexander, aged twelve and ten. With them at the fort were two soldiers, two boys, an old man of eighty, and some women and children.

The settlers were at work in the fields. Madeleine, with a hired man, was at the landing-place not far from the fort, when suddenly she heard firing from the fields, and at the same time the cry of her companion: "Run, mademoiselle, run—the Iroquois. Turning her head, she saw fifty savages within pistol-shot, and ran for the fort.

The Indians pursued her, but, when they found that they could not overtake the fleet-footed girl, halted and fired a volley.

"The bullets," she says, "whistled about my ears, and made the road seem long." "To arms!" she shouted, as she neared the gate, but the two soldiers, panic-stricken, had fled along the covered way into the block-house, and nobody met her but two shrieking women who from the walls had just seen their husbands killed in the fields.

Madeleine was a soldier's daughter, and her mother had two years before stood a siege on the same ground, and with four men defeated the Indians. She drove the two women in, shut the gate, and made them help her to replace the palisades that had fallen here and there. Then she proceeded to the block-house, where she found the two soldiers about to blow up the magazine. "Out of here, miserable cowards!" ordered the young commander, and then, as she tells us, "I threw off my bonnet, and after putting on a hat and taking a gun, I said to my brothers: 'Let us fight to the death. We are fighting for our country and our religion. Remember that our father has taught you that gentlemen are born to shed their blood in the service of God and the King!'"

Her brave words so encouraged the children and so shamed the soldiers that they opened fire from the loopholes upon the Indians with such effect that the savages withdrew to busy themselves with killing and capturing the settlers in the fields. The girl captain then ordered the women and children to cease their screaming lest it should encourage the Iroquois, and fired off the cannon of the fort to frighten the assailants, and warn some soldiers who were hunting in the woods.

The sound was heard by a settler, Pierre Fontaine, who paddled to the landing with his family. But there was danger that the Indians would fall upon them ere they could reach the fort, so she ordered the soldiers to sally out and protect them. This the soldiers were afraid to do; so, leaving the hired man with whom she had been when the first alarm was given, to guard the gate, she went alone to the river shore, thinking that the Indians would interpret her boldness as a ruse to draw them into some trap. She was right, and succeeded in helping the Fontaines to land, and

marched them into the fort which she was the last to enter.

"I now ordered," the young Captain says, "that the enemy should be fired on whenever they showed themselves;" and the fort of Vercheres spoke sharply out until the sun set, and a cold wind, with squalls of snow and hail "told us we should have a terrible night." But the night had worse perils for the little garrison, and knowing that the besiegers would surely attempt a surprise, she mustered her troops, seven men all told, between the ages of ten and eighty, and harangued them as follows:

"God has saved us to-day from the hands of our enemies, but we must take care not to fall into their snares to-night. For me, I want you to see that I am not afraid; I will take charge of the fort with an old man of eighty, and another who has never fired a gun. You, Pierre Fontaine, with our two soldiers, will go into the block-house with the women and children, because that is the strongest place. If I am taken, don't surrender, not even if I am cut to pieces or burned before your eyes. They can not hurt you in the block-house if you make any show of fight whatever."

So all through the long October night the old man and the three children cycled from the four angles of the fort, "All's

night, dozing with her gun in her arms and her head resting on a table, when a sentinel came to say that he had heard a slight sound from the river, and had challenged it without reply. Madeleine went up to her bastion and hailed the darkness. "We are Frenchmen," came the answer; "it is Lieutenant De la Monnerie who has come to your help."

Fort Vercheres was relieved by the royal troops, but the young commander did not neglect any precautions or formalities. "I caused the gate to be opened," she writes, "I placed a sentinel there, and went down to the river. As soon as I saw M. De la Monnerie I saluted him, and said, 'Monsieur, I surrender my arms to you.' He answered gallantly, 'Mademoiselle, they are in good hands.' 'In better hands than you think,' I replied. He inspected the fort, and found everything in good order, and a sentinel on each bastion. 'It is time to relieve them, monsieur,' said I; 'we have not been off our bastions for a week.'"

Close behind the French troops came a body of converted Indians who followed the Iroquois to Lake Champlain, beat them, and carried back twenty rescued settlers to Vercheres. The girl Captain of Castle-Dangerous was not forgotten, but received a life pension from the King, and lived

ing, callers not being allowed to take it away unless in exceptional cases. She reads to them some book, then Scripture, a song, and prayer. The little ones are then put to bed, the others go to their hour of study; for, she judges that those of fifteen to seventeen years old cannot while in school endure much evening strain. For years she was late to prayer-meeting, but had it me enough to pray or to speak if she wished, and had at least the golden half-hour opportunity to speak with strangers after meeting. These children are never ill, for father or mother, from principle and training, have not "sowed to the flesh" by indulgence in tobacco, tea, coffee, pastry, etc. The latter costs more and requires more time to prepare than Graham bread and butter, or toast, with plenty of fruit, fresh, or stewed if it be dried fruit, for neither does this mother believe in preserves or pickles as regards health, wealth, or time. She has, however, plenty of the best fresh fruit and milk, and the children's dress is simple—for instance, a plain but stylish dirt-colored linen instead of the elaborate white, difficult to make and to wear and to laundry, and to keep in repair. The clothes they wear are so simple that a shower would not seriously harm them, and yet these children are so merry and healthy-looking that they never fail to elicit admiration; and this mother knits mittens and stockings during calls and during journeys, wherein other ladies fret continually at the heat. And this couple give one-fifth of their income outright into the church charity-envelope. Yet they have their home paid for. "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you," even health and happiness and abundance, for those who do not misuse abundance by habits of luxury or hoarding are God's chosen stewards and almoners. This case is not an isolated one in a church whose pastor preaches "what mothers most desire for their children they will be likely to gain," and where the pastor's wife is so plain in her dress that a secular paper of the city remarked that "the wife of the pastor of one of our large churches, by her example of simplicity in dress, has saved to the church thousands of dollars, which is seen in its increased contributions. They want to give their children the best training and education, but killed in the attack of Haverhill in 1708.—Harper's Young People.



THE GIRL CAPTAIN OF CASTLE DANGEROUS.

well!" and the soldiers answered from the block-house, so that the Iroquois, thinking, as they afterward said, that both buildings were strongly garrisoned, gave up their intended midnight attack.

With the dawning day the spirits of the besieged rose, with the exception of Marguerite Fontaine, who, "was extremely timid, as all Parisian women are," and implored her husband to take her to a safer fort. But Pierre Fontaine swore he would never leave Vercheres while Miss Madeleine was there, and Miss Madeleine answered him wisely and bravely, that "I would rather die than give the fort up to the enemy, and that it was of the greatest consequence that the Indians should never get possession of any French fort, because if they got one, they would think they could get others, and so become more presumptuous than ever."

The Iroquois did not get possession of that fort, though they besieged it for a week. Not once did the young Captain enter her father's house, but always kept on the bastion, or visited the block-house to encourage the women and children. For forty-eight hours she did not eat or sleep. She was, on the seventh night,

many years to enjoy her fortune and her fame. One of her brothers was less fortunate, being killed in the attack of Haverhill in 1708.—Harper's Young People.

"THE MOST SUCCESSFUL WOMAN I KNOW."

I want to say a word to the mother who feels that she very seldom should attend the church prayer-meeting on account of her duty to her children to spend the evening with them at home. Now I should like to give a picture of the most successful woman I know. She does a great deal of outside-temperance work, in order, she says, "to make the streets safer for my large boys." She has led more souls to Christ than any clergyman I know, and yet is the mother of five children and attends all the church prayer-meetings. She says that she remembers that she and her little brothers and sisters were always put to bed half an hour earlier than usual on prayer-meeting night, and that it gave her a never-forgotten impression of the great importance of the prayer-meeting, which she determined her children should not lack. She never misses an hour with them together, at early even-

ings, which is seen in its increased contributions. They want to give their children the best training and education, but killed in the attack of Haverhill in 1708.—Harper's Young People.

SMOKING.

I am a boy of thirteen—an age when many boys are tempted to commence smoking, and, perhaps, from seeing their fathers or elder brothers doing so, think it a very manly habit.

I was induced to think differently by reading a letter which my father has written to me on the subject. I send you extracts of it, as they may perhaps be useful to some of your dear boy-readers. Yours sincerely,

R ALLEN McLEAREN.

EXTRACTS.

My Dear Allen: You are like a tiny little boat—rather frail—not long launched out of the harbor, with the wide sea before you, wherein are many dangerous rocks and shoals. Now, a good government always puts up a lighthouse or beacon there.

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That's what I am going to do in this letter, as a dutiful father, on one of the rocks which my dear boys are sure to sight in the voyage of life, that they may steer safely past.

The rock is—smoking. Now, that is a temptation all boys meet sooner or later, and most of them in this age fall under it. I fell myself, and puffed away for eight years. Thank God! it ended then. My father showed me a good example in that respect, but never pointed out to me the reasons against it, or perhaps I should never have begun.

Boys smoke to be like men, as they long to get out of blouses into knickerbockers, then into jackets and trousers, and lastly into full-fledged coat and waistcoat. Is it mainly to smoke? Not in the true sense of manliness. It is common, but not manly. It used to be considered manly, and was therefore common, to get "as drunk as a lord." Those days have passed away. A man who gets drunk, even though a lord, is now shunned by respectable men.

Smoking is a lesser vice. It is still a "whishable one; but I feel convinced that the day will come—you may live to see it—when it will be looked upon in its true light, as the function of a chimney, but not of a God-made man.

What is the standard of manliness? Only one; it is to be found in the life of the Perfect Man, Christ Jesus. Did he smoke? No; the habit had not then commenced. Is it likely he would smoke if he came in this smoking age? Not the least likely! Why?

1. The smoker is an unjust steward. The money spent in it is a talent wasted. It is worse than hid in a napkin. The man who hid the one talent had it; but the money spent in tobacco vanishes in smoke. It is gone forever, and produces no good fruit.

2. The smoker by his example, tempts others to be unjust stewards; they in turn influence more, until soon the evil example of one affects ever-widening circles of men all down the ages.

3. It injures health, weakens the stomach, impairs the appetite, removes moisture necessary to digestion, and dulls the palate. Such a violation of the body which is the temple of the Holy Spirit, would certainly not have Christ's sanction.

4. It limits social intercourse; confines a man often to smoking-rooms and smoking-carriages; and, above all, banishes him often from the softening and elevating society of woman, and gives him an odor and a breath not very pleasant, even when the smoke is over.

5. It is a powerful habit, easy to acquire, but very difficult to give up. I have rarely met a man who would not rather that he had never begun. I have known many who tried hard over and over again, to abandon it, but very few who succeeded. When the habit cannot be indulged, through want of means, or of tobacco, or of opportunity, the man is miserable.

6. It is a dirty habit, for person and clothes, and cannot be part of the cleanliness which is next to godliness.

Blessed is the man whose wants are few and simple. He is so far a free man. Every additional want is a link in the chain of bondage. If there is sense and reason in what I have said—and I'm sure dear mother concurs in every word of it—then I am fully convinced that your desire will be to honor your father and mother in this matter. If, on the other hand, when you reach the age of maturity, you should become convinced, after prayerful consideration, that your duty as a man and as a Christian is to smoke—that it will make you a brighter example for others and a juster steward before God—that it will improve your health and increase your usefulness,—then smoke openly and fearlessly, but not till then.

Yes, it is a noble thing to be a true man, but you will be all the nearer by steering clear of habits which are not worthy of a man. Your affectionate father,
—The Christian.

KEEPING CHILDREN BUSY.

The blessing of abundant occupation is as needful for children as for adults.

In nothing do children differ more than in their ability to amuse themselves. A child with an active imagination can play with eager delight with a thousand trifles that children unblest with that faculty, have no conception of utilizing. And we

are mistaken if those juveniles are not the happiest who are compelled by a scarcity of material to invent new and fertile uses for what they do have. Certain it is that so much may be done for a child that he will be dwarfed for life by an over-supply of toys and attention, while if he is thrown in part on his own resources he will have the joy of inventing and increasing amusement for himself.

The kindergarten occupations furnish exhaustless material for the instruction and amusement confined of the little folk. Though a regular course of instruction as to the use of these "gifts" is certainly desirable those who cannot take this course may utilize the kindergarten "gifts" in their nurseries with very great advantage. There are books giving specific instructions as to the employment of each "gift," and any mother or nurse who will read them carefully may have the means at hand of keeping the little brains and fingers happily employed.

Plato, in "The Laws," says: "Now a boy is of all wild beasts the most difficult to manage. For by how much the more he has the fountain of prudence not yet fitted up, he becomes crafty and keen, and the most insolent of all wild beasts. On this account it is necessary to bind him, as it were, with many chains." The habit of industry is one of the best chains with which to bind a boy, and this habit may be formed from the cradle and strengthened through all the growing years. Little chores about the house and garden, not above the boy's strength to do, he is all the better for doing. The stimulus of wages may be used to further him in his willingness to work, and these wages may be applied to the purchase of little indulgences, which the parent would gladly give, but which are more highly prized when earned than when accepted as a gift.

The reading of suitable books is another very strong chain to bind a boy to the practice of virtue, and a girl as well. The long days of childhood cannot be better spent than when growing vigorously in body, in storing up the seeds of knowledge and in forming nuclei about which accumulations of various information may grow. The rudiments of all the sciences may be learned before the child enters his teens. But this depends on the wisdom and care of the parents very largely, and upon the facilities afforded the child. If, instead of being shut up in a school room five hours every day, he is made the companion of an active, intelligent parent and his mental activities directed toward interesting topics, he may advance far more rapidly in intellectual growth and attainment than his fellows moping through the dull routine of the primary school, as it is generally conducted. Horace Greeley's mother told him stories, cited poetry to him and fed his mind with all the treasures of her own, thus cultivating in him a taste for vast and various reading, a taste which he retained to the last.

A printing press, a tool-chest, a scroll saw, pet animals, a set of garden tools, are excellent things for boys to occupy themselves with, but their use requires constant oversight from parents, so that habits of exactness, neatness, of firmness, of thoroughness, and of order, may be formed. Occupation is not intended merely to keep a boy or girl from mischief, but positively to form them to virtue. The knitting and sewing which our grandmothers did in their childhood, the "samplers" they wrought, we smile at now, but in this work they learned what we are trying to teach our children. Handicraft of all sorts is becoming the fashion and childish hands are now taught to draw, to paint, to model, to hammer brass, to embroider, and in this agreeable work, amusement and profit combine.—N. Y. Tribune.

TABLE TALK.

What would you think of a housekeeper who made a practice of mixing nettles or wormwood with her salads, or pouring coal oil into her gravies, and sprinkling ashes over her juicy roasts? You would, of course, think her a poor, crazy woman, whose place was in the asylum. But one spoiled dish on the table is not so bad as to have the comfort of the whole meal taken away by bringing up unpleasant subjects which make you wish you were dining off a crust on "the corner of a house-top" alone, in preference. It is not the right place at which to bring up all the arrears of the day's misfortunes and shortcomings. Be pleas-

ant at meal times, if you cannot any other hour in the day. It is a powerful aid to digestion to have the mind cheery and bright when taking our food. Gloom and ill temper are exactly the reverse of helpful.

It is the hardest on the overworked mother, who too often comes to her meals so worried she has little relish or spirit for eating. So much the more is it the duty of those about her to say encouraging, cheering words that shall be a help to her. If all will try for the hour to lay off care and be happy together, the meal times may be the most pleasant and instructive parts of the day.

Dr. Franklin stated that he derived his peculiar, practical turn of mind from his father's table talk. He was accustomed to take up some profitable subject, or discuss some moral principle, instead of forever talking upon hunting, or trouting, or dining, or neighborhood gossip.

Young Elihu Burritt had his soul fired with a desire to read largely from hearing his father end some old neighbor talking over the old days of the Revolution. If such delightful fascinating tales were found in books, he would master them and win their gold. How nobly he succeeded, is, or ought to be known to every American boy, to whom his example is a legacy.

A neat and happy home table, though covered with the coarsest linen the lousiest may weave, is a memory to which the grown-up children will turn back with delight as something almost sacred. It is one of the "spells of home" that help more than we can ever know, to bind the heart to all that is good and holy, and keep it back from the ways of sin. Let us watch over this educator of our children with a jealous care, and study the matter beforehand, so we may repress whatever would be unpleasant and have topics in our mind to bring forward that will be both pleasant and useful.—Am. Paper.

"IS THAT ALL!"

A carpenter, who had been a constant drinker—"in a moderate way," as he called it—and who was often really drunk, went into a temperance meeting, and was convinced that he had lived a selfish and harmful as well as foolish life. He resolved to give up the drink. He knew his wife was miserable, his children afraid of him, his home shabby and dilapidated, and his debts increasing. He knew that he had helped to make the publican the most "patronized" comfortable, and the publican's wife gay with the silks purchased out of his "fools' pence." He resolved that his own wife should have less reason to complain, and more money to spend. He was earning the moderate wages of thirty shilling a week, but out of that he contrived to spend often six or seven shillings, sometimes more.

After deciding to be a total abstainer he made himself a strong box without hinges, and nailed it up tightly. He left just a small slit in the top through which he could drop his coppers. And many a penny and threepenny-bit he did drop therein. It was his custom whenever he felt tempted to drink to take out of one pocket just the money that he would have to spend to gratify a mere taste or craving, and put it into the other until he should reach home; then he would put it in the box and leave it there untouched. For a year this went on. He kept the box hidden away, and told not his wife of his practice or intention. At the end of the year he was seated by his own fireside after tea, and looking across to his wife, he said, pleasantly, "Jennie, it is just twelve months to-night since I signed the pledge; do you think we are any better off for it?"

"Better off? Why, yes, Charlie."
"How?"
"Why, you are earning more money, and you would not have been made foreman if you had not become so steady and trust-worthy. Then look at the home; we have better furniture now."
"Is that all?"
"The children are better clothed."
"Is that all?" he asked again.
"Why, no, Charlie; they are happier, and so am I."
"Is that all?"
"Well, I am happier, and I think healthier, for I have less anxiety than I used to have."
"Is that all?"
"No, for you are kinder and happier too."
"Is that all?" he again asked.

"No, for we are out of debt, and I have even two pounds in hand."

"Is that all?"
"I don't know anything further, unless you mean that you delight now to go to God's house on Sunday."

"Yes, I do delight in it; and, thank God, I have found out my need of a Saviour, and have found that the Saviour was seeking me. But there is something more that makes me ask whether even that is all."

"What is it?"
"Nellie," he said, to his bright eldest girl, "go into my workshop and open my tool chest. You will see there a box with a slit in it. Bring it."

The daughter soon returned, evidently weighed down by a burden. She placed the box on the table. The mother looked at it wonderingly. Soon it was opened by the hammer and screw-driver, which her husband had at hand. He turned the box carefully over, and out rolled a large number of coppers and silver.

"Count it, wife. That is the money I should have spent in drink during the last twelve months. That is all ours, not the publican's. It is yours. We are all that better off for my signing the pledge."

The wife tremblingly counted the many coins, each one bearing upon it the invisible stamp of self-conquest. When all was told there appeared in many copper and silver pillars the sum of fourteen pounds! This was a large sum to them, and to the wife it was more than a large fortune. Her eyes—moistened with tears of joy, and yet kindled with love and trust—met those of her husband. "Thank God," she said, "for all His mercies. 'Tis not for the money I praise Him, but for giving my dear husband such strength of will and me such peace and gladness."—Frederick Hastings in British Workman.

HINTS TO TEACHERS ON THE CURRENT LESSONS.

(From Peloubat's Select Notes.)
January 4.—Acts. 20: 2-16.

SUGGESTIONS TO TEACHERS.

As this is the first lesson of a series on Paul's travels and work it will be well to spend more time than is usually wise in teaching the framework of the lesson, that the scholars may have clear ideas and a vivid picture of the scenes and events which are to impress the practical truths upon them. It gives reality and power and definiteness to the lessons, and writes them deeper on the memory.

First let some scholar give a brief account of the Acts; another a few words about Paul.

The map. It is well to take an ancient and a modern map and place them side by side. Then trace out Paul's third missionary tour from the beginning. This will enable you to review the preceding history by having the scholars tell what was done at each place.

Then follow out Paul's diary as given in to-day's lesson, noting both the days and the deeds at each place. The lessons of to-day are taught by the events.

We may call the subject,—a Sabbath with an Apostle.

I. On the way (vers. 2-6.) He started from Ephesus, and spent several months in Macedonia. The chief teaching here is on exhortation, to what, the need of it, when to be given, how to be received. Next follows three months in Greece. Here we see how the best of men are sometimes hated and opposed. Paul's wise method of avoiding danger. Emphasis may be laid on the work of Paul all the time, in the midst of his preaching, in urging collections for the poor. The companions of Paul. The blessedness of this companionship and their advantage to him. Note Luke's joining them. Then Paul set a good example in attending the great meetings of God's people (in vers. 6 and 16) Paul proceeds to Troas.

II. A Sabbath with Paul at Troas. (vers. 7-12.) Draw from the scholars the various things that Paul did on this Sabbath. Impress the duty of keeping the Sabbath, of attending church, of listening to the service, of reverent worship, of proper behavior in church, of communion with saints. The delight and profit of the instruction of a great and good man making it worth while to listen all night. There will be other lessons from Eutychus, excuses for him, his wrong, his death, being brought to life. The life-giving power of the Gospel.

III. The departure (vers. 13-16) needs but brief tracing on the map.

SCHOLAR'S NOTES

(From International Question Book) Studies in the Acts of the Apostles.

LESSON I.—JANUARY 4. PAUL AT THROAS.—ACTS 20: 1-16. COMMIT VERSES 9-12.

GOLDEN TEXT. And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them.—Acts 20: 7.

CENTRAL TRUTH. The Christian Sabbath should be a day of rest, of worship, and of instruction in righteous ways.

DAILY READINGS. M. Acts 19: 1-22. W. Acts 20: 1-6. Th. 1 Cor. 16: 1-11. F. Rom. 14: 23-25. Sa. 1 Kings 17: 1-24. Su. Luke 8: 1-36.

THE ACTS.—(1) The author was Luke; (2) it was written at Rome; (3) somewhere between A.D. 54 and 60.

TIME.—This lesson extends over nearly a year, from May 2, A.D. 57, to April 23, A.D. 58.

PAUL.—April 23, 58, was on his third great missionary journey. Three years of that journey were already past.

CIRCUMSTANCES.—We now return to the history of the early church as recorded in the Acts, where we left it in lesson VII, of the second quarter of 1890. It had been three years on his third great missionary journey. He had left Ephesus on account of the mob, and went northward to Troas, where he sailed across the gulf to Philippi, and spends several months in Macedonia, where we find him at the beginning of this lesson.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES. 2. THOSE PARTS—Macedonia, Greece—in Corinth; its chief city, 3. THREE MONTHS—Nov. A. D. 57, to Feb. A. D. 58. TO SYRIA—in Jerusalem (1 Cor. 16: 5). TO RETURN THROUGH MACEDONIA—i.e., he would go to Jerusalem by land instead of water. 4. THREE ACCOMPANIED BY 13 to aid Paul to carry the money collected for the poor. They would act as a guard of the funds and relieve Paul of both suspicion and cares. 5. THESE CAME BEFORE—from Philippi. This shows that Luke, the author of the Acts, had joined Paul. 6. SAILED AWAY FROM PHILIPPI—they had all gone as far as Philippi in Macedonia; by land; how they sailed over the gulf to Troas, while Paul made a longer stay at Philippi. UNCLE SAM'S BREAD—i.e., the Passover. 7. THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK—our Sunday. This shows the beginning of the change of the sabbath day from Friday to the Jewish sabbath to the Christian Sabbath. TO BREAK BREAD—to eat the Lord's Supper. 8. EUTYCHUS... IN A DEEP SLEEP... HE WAS YOUNG (21); HE WAS LAND (19 some of the subjects may have been by his comprehension; 4) he may have been weary; (5) the room was dimly lighted, warm and close. LOVE-STORY. 10. HIS LIFE IS IN HIM—Paul then knew his prayer was answered, and that he would live. 12. HE SPOKE BY EVANGELISM—the great test 30 days after the Passover. This year it was May 10. He had three weeks for the journey.

QUESTIONS. INTRODUCTORY.—Who wrote the Acts? When and where? How do you know where, in this lesson, the author joined Paul? On which of his great missionary journeys was Paul at this time? How long since he began it? How old a man was Paul? Trace out, on the map, the travels of Paul, so far as recorded in this lesson. In what city did he spend three years? Why did he leave?

SUBJECT: A SUNDAY WITH AN APOSTLE.

I. ON THE WAY (vs. 2-6).—To what country did Paul go on his journey? How long did he remain in Macedonia? What two things did he do there? (v. 2; Rom. 15: 23, 25) Why did the people love his exhortation? To what did he exhort them?

Where did he go next? How long was his abode there? What was one of his labors in those countries? (Rom. 15: 23, 25; 1 Cor. 16: 1-11) Why did he leave Greece? What change was made in his plans? Where is Syria?

Who were Paul's companions? What part of the journey did they go alone? Why was Titus? What change do you notice in v. 9, in the use of the personal pronouns? What is the significance of this change? Through what feast did Paul remain at Philippi?

II. A SUNDAY AT THROAS (vs. 7, 8, 11). To what place did Paul go from Philippi? How long was he at Throas? What day did Paul keep as the sabbath? How did he keep the sabbath? What was of keeping the sabbath if you find it in these verses? Meaning of "to break bread"? How long was Paul preaching? How ought we to keep the sabbath?

III. A SLEEPY HEARER (vs. 9, 10, 12). Where was the sermon given? Who sat in one of the windows? How came he to be so sleepy? Are we excusable for sleeping in church? What had Eutychus done? Was he really dead? What did Paul mean by "his life is in him"? How was he brought to life? How was this comforting to his disciples?

IV. THE DEPARTURE (vs. 13-16). Trace out Paul's journey from Assos to Miletus. Why was Paul in haste? How far did he go "aboard" and alone? Why? Do we all need seasons of solitary meditation?

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS. I. We should help each other by kindly exhortations. II. It is blessed to be the companions of the great and good. III. The Sabbath should be kept faithfully, by attending church, by worship, by religious instruction, and by the communion of saints. IV. Do not sleep in church. V. Do not harshly condemn those who do.

VI. Spiritual death is often the result of inattention to religious instruction. VII. The Gospel is to bring the spiritually dead to life. VIII. All need seasons of retirement and meditation.

COMMERCIAL.

MONTREAL, Dec. 23, 1884.

This is not holiday week but it is a holiday, as far as actual business goes to all intents and purposes. Wheat is in Liverpool steady, with an easy fair demand, but there is very little doing on this side of the Atlantic. In fact, the only thing that is in fair demand at present is a merry Christmas and may all be supplied.

Chicago is very dull and prices are lightly higher. The quotations are:—Wheat at 71½c Jan. 72½ Feb. 73½ May. Corn is quoted at 33½c year and Jan. at 35 May.

The local market is unchanged in every way. We quote Canada Red Winter, 82c to 84c; White, 83c to 84c; Spring 81c to 83c; Peas, 72½c to 73c; Oats, 31c; Barley, 55c to 67c. Corn 54c.

Flour.—The price is somewhat lower, there is quite a lively local market, and holders appear to be a little anxious to fix the price. We quote as follows:—Superior Extra, \$3.70 to \$3.80; Extra Superfine, \$3.60 to \$3.60; Fancy \$3.45; Spring Extra \$3.40; Superfine, \$3.25 to \$3.35; Strong Bakers' (Can.), \$3.75 to \$4.00; Strong Bakers' (American), \$4.00 to \$4.25; Fint, \$3.10 to \$3.15; Middlings, \$3.80 to \$3.85; Pollards, \$2.60 to \$2.70; Ontario bags, (bags included) Medium, \$1.75 to \$1.85; Spring Extra, \$1.65 to \$1.70; Superfine, \$1.45 to \$1.55; City Bags, (delivered), \$2.35.

MEALS unchanged. DAIRY PRODUCE.—Both butter and cheese are quiet and unchanged. We quote as follows:—Creamery, 22c to 24c; Eastern Townships, 18c to 21c; Western, 14c to 17c. Cheese is unchanged at 11½c to 12c for September and October, and 8c to 11c for other makes.

Eggs, fresh, are selling at 20c to 22c, as to quality. POULTRY AND GAME are steady as follows:—Turkeys, 11c to 13c; ducks, 10c to 12c; geese and chickens, 7c to 9c per lb; partridges, 45c to 50c per brace; venison saddles, 7c to 9c; do, carcasses, 5c to 6c per lb.

HOG PRODUCTS are very quiet. We quote:—Western Mess Pork \$14.75 to \$15.00; Hams, city cured, 14c to 14½c; Bacon, 13c to 14c; Lard, western, in pails, 10½c to 10½c; do, Canadian, 10½c; Tallow, common refined, 7c to 8c.

ASHES are very weak, Pots selling at 3.60 to \$3.65 as to tars.

FARMERS' MARKET.

The severe cold and boisterous weather has to a considerable extent prevented farmers at a distance from coming to market, yet the supply of grain, roots and vegetables are fully equal to the demand and prices continue without material change. Beef quarters of common and inferior quality are plentiful and cheap. Dressed hogs are in good supply but prices are higher. There is an extraordinary demand for good turkeys, geese and ducks and prices have advanced considerably. Common tub butter is difficult of sale, but superior prints bring pretty high rates. The price of hay has advanced since the Longueuil Ferry boats ceased running. Oats are 75c to 85c per bag; peas, 75c to 90c per bushel; beans \$1.40 to \$1.80 do; potatoes 40c to 50c per bag; turnips, carrots, beets and onions 30c to 50c per bushel; cabbages 15c to 30c per dozen heads; butter 14c to 16c per lb; eggs 22c to 50c per dozen; apples \$2.00 to \$3.00 per barrel; dressed hogs 7c to 7½c per lb; mutton quarters 5c to 7c do; young turkeys 11c to 15c per lb; geese 12c to 12c do; fowls 7c to 10c do; ducks 12c to 15c do; hay \$5.00 to \$9.50 per 100 bundles.

LIVE STOCK MARKET.

The supply of Christmas beef is much in excess of demand this season and prices are unusually low for such extra quality. A few choice animals were sold at first at pretty high figures, but later on prices fell about one cent per lb, on all extra cattle. Common and inferior beasts are in excessive supply and very difficult to sell at former rates. Extra heaves sell at from 5c to 5½c per lb; pretty good steers and fat cows at from 3½c to 4½c do; common dry cows at

about 3c and lean animals at 1½c to 2½c do. Good sheep and lambs are in brisk demand at from 4½c to 5c per lb, live weight, and common mutton critters, at from 3½c to 4c do. The supply of live hogs has been rather small for some time and prices are higher, or about 5c per lb. Milch cows have been rather plentiful for the demand of late and prices are declining.

NEW YORK, Dec. 22, 1884.

GRAIN.—Wheat, 80½c Jan.; 83c Feb.; 85c Mar.; 87½c April; 89c May. Corn, 52c Dec.; 49c Jan.; 46½c April; 46½c May. Rye, quiet, 63½c. Oats, dull; 33½c Dec.; 33c Jan.; 35c May. Barley. Canada No. 2, 76½c. Peas nominal.

Flour, quiet and unchanged. We quote: Superfine, \$2.60 to \$2.60; Low Extra, \$2.60 to \$3.55; Clears, \$3.40 to \$4.00; Straight, \$3.65 to \$4.60; Patent, \$4.60 to \$5.00. Winter Wheat; — Superfine, \$2.35 to \$2.80; Low Extra, \$2.65 to \$3.00; Clears (R. and A.), \$3.75 to \$4.00; Straight (R. and A.), \$4.00 to \$4.95; Patent, \$4.00 to \$5.00; Low Extra (City Mill), \$2.80 to \$3.00; West India, sacks, \$3.50 to \$3.60; barrels, West India, \$4.40; Patent, \$4.60 to \$5.15; South America, \$4.25 to \$4.30; Patent \$4.65 to \$5.40. Southern Flour—Extra \$3.00 to \$4.25; Family, \$4.50 to \$5.00; Patent, \$5.10 to \$5.60. Rye Flour—Fine to extra, \$6.75 to \$8.85.

MEALS.—Cornmeal, \$3.30 to \$3.40 in bbls; oatmeal, \$5.00 to \$5.90 per brl.

DAIRY PRODUCE.—Butter unchanged. Creamery, ordinary to select 19c to 28c. Half firkins, ordinary to best 16c to 25c; Welsh tubs 19c to 22c; Western ordinary factory, to choice imitation creamery, 9c to 22c. Cheese, state factory, ordinary to fall cream, 3½c to 12½c. Ohio flats, fair to choice 6c to 11½c; Skims 1c to 3c.

THE SALVATION ARMY is obtaining a firm hold in Montreal. Already much sympathy has been expressed with its work in influential quarters. Their meetings are largely attended. Special constables preserve order inside the hall, while outside a considerable force of police, under the direction of the sub-chief, overcome the rough element and see the leaders home in safety. Many have already professed conversion.

ABOUT MIDNIGHT, on Sunday night, two men threw a parcel over the bridge at Glasgow and made their escape. It is believed the intention was to blow up the bridge. Much alarm at present prevails regarding the safety of public buildings, bridges, and railway stations in Great Britain, as the dynamiters would seem to be plotting a series of fresh outrages.

WHEN STRIPPED to the literal meaning of the words from which the term was derived "pocket handkerchief" means "a pocket hand covering for the head." The hand wants no kerchief, and what is called the handkerchief was not made for the pocket. All of this is so confusing it cannot be wondered at that the small boy prefers his sieve.

AN OLD HIGHLAND WOMAN, one after the straight set, used to say, "Nane o' yer modern improvements for me; I want auld Dawid's Psalm and Dawid's tunic, too, in oor kirk."

IT ONLY TAKES three men to successfully move a safe to the sixth story, but it requires all the way from 72 to 135 in constant attendance to see that it is done properly.

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