A Christmas Song. BY LOUISE MANNING HODGKINS.

Oh, welcome, holy morning Of blessed Christmas-tide! The hearts that wait thy dawning With joy are opened wide. Bring back the early joy, The faith that asked no proving, The love that lived by loving, That blest me when a boy.

Bring back the strong reliance That rested in its lot: That bade the world defiance, Because it knew it not. That listened every night To hear the Christ-child singing, Could hear His earthward winging, And the music of His flight.

The mother in the gloaming, Lighted the Christmas-tree; Now are the children coming, The doors open fair and free; Upon our dazzled sight, No song or glowing story E'er painted half the glory Which shone on that glad night.

O Bethlehem's Holy Stranger, Until Thou call me home, Keep Thou my soul from danger By joy for what shall come! Then open wide the gate, And to my eager praying, Oh, let me hear Thee saving. "Come, child, nor longer wait!"

The Sabbath-School.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON.

Fourth Quarter-Lesson XII-Dec. 23. RUTH'S CHOICE.—Ruth 1:16-22.

GOLDEN TEXT.—Thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God.—Ruth 1:16.

THE BOOK OF RUTH.—Its name is derived from the principal character described in it. Its author is unknown, but some of the Jewish traditions ascribe it to Samuel. The time of its writing is uncertain, but doubtless after the birth of David. The book gives a charming view of the domestic life of pious Israelites even during the most troubled times. Had we only drawn our impressions from the records of violence and crime contained in the Book of Judges, we should have been ready to conclude that all the gentler virtues had fled from the land. But the Book of Ruth discloses most beautiful views of piety, integrity, affection, chastity, gentleness, and charity.

THE EMIGRANTS.—During the rule of the Judges, probably near the time of Gideon, there arose a great famine in the land of Israel, which must have lasted several years. In Bethlehem lived a man named Elimelech and his wife Naomi. They had two sons, Mahlon and Chilion. Finding it difficult to obtain a living on the home farm on account of the famine, and perhaps afraid of roving bands of invaders, the family determined to emigrate to some safer and more fruitful region They went across the Jordan, probably at the fords of Jericho, turned to the south, and settled among the rich fields of the Moabites. Here great changes came to the family. In the course of ten years, the sons married Moabitish women, and both sons and Elimelech their father died, leaving the three women widows.

THE PARTING SCENE ON THE ROAD HOME.—The widowed Naomi, poor, in distress, among strangers, became homesick for her native land, her kindred, and the religious aids and consolations of her youth. The famine is over, Gideon has overcome the oppressors, the people have turned toward God. Accordingly she sets out on her return home. The two widowed daughtersin-law, Orpah and Ruth went part of the way to see Naomi off. When the time came to part, they both declared they would not return, but would go with her to Israel. She declined to take advantage of the impulse of passionate regret, which their cooler judgment might not sanction, and urged them to return. Orpah was prevailed upon, and went back to her own people, to her old life, to her former gods. Orpah showed she had an affection for Naomi, yet did not love her enough to leave her country for her sake. Thus, many have affection for Christ, yet fall short of salvation by him, because they cannot find it in their hearts to forsake other things for him.

RUTH'S CHOICE.—Vers. 16-18. Naomi used the same arguments to Ruth that she did to Orpah, with the additional weight of her sisterin-law's example. And Ruth said Entreat me not to leave thee. All that Naomi had said, her solitariness, poverty, sorrow, only served to attach Ruth more firmly. She refuses to leave her. Rather than to leave her to suffer alone, Ruth will starve with or beg for her. Whither thou goest, I will go, etc.

This passionate utterance is a type of what every one who becomes a Christian says to Christ and his church. And thy God my God. This is a pattern of a resolute convert to God and religion. Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried. She gives herself up wholly and forever to the people of God. The Lord do so to me: calling upon herself the severest punishment if she should break her

promise. Ruth's Choice. 1. Like Mary, she chose the good part. 2. She chose in full view of all the consequences. 3. Her choice was of spiritual good, at the cost of poverty and friendlessness and toil. 4. She was led to her choice of the God and religion through human affection. 5. It was a life choice.

THE EMIGRANT'S RETURN.-Vers. 19-22. They came to Bethlehem: the early home of Naomi. Here, too, she had a small estate (Ruth 4: 3). All the city was moved. Naomi's return was an uncommon occurrence. Everybody ran, told the news, and wondered. For more than ten years had passed since she had left Bethlehem. Her husband, belonged to a prominent family in the city. And they said: they in the Hebrew is feminine. The women of Bethlehem said. Is this Naomi? In these words there was an expression of amazement, at her returning in so mournful a condition, as a solitary widow without either husband or sons. Call me not Naomi. The meaning of Naomi is pleasant, sweet. Call me Mara: i. e., bitter. Ten years have turned Naomi (beautiful) into Mara (bitter). For the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me, I went out full: i. e., rich; in the possession of a husband and two sons. The Lord hath testified against me: has borne witness against me, that our going away was a sin. Barley harvest: usually in the middle of April. Ruth thought she might contribute something to their subsistence by going forth to glean. This right of gleaning was one of the legal provisions for the poor of Israel. The part of the field to which Ruth was providentially directed belonged to Boaz, a near kinsman of Naomi's late husband.

THE REWARD OF DEVOTION TO DUTY AND TO GOD.—The rest of the Book of Ruth tells of her recompense for her self-denying love. She found a means of supporting her mother in-law. She won the respect and favor of the people. She gained an excellent husband and home. In Boaz we have a model for the character of a rich man in private life: we see one whose deep faith in God breaks out in every word of his lips, and every action of his life; one attentive to his own business and diligent in the care of his own property; kind and friendly to his dependents, and beloved by them; liberal, generous, and courteous to the poor and friendless stranger; observing and appreciating virtue in others; and practising it himself; respecting the rights of others even when they interfered with his own wishes; observant of the laws of his country; mindful of his obligations to the living and the dead; alive to the ties of kindred, of country, and of religion; and uniformly humble, quiet, and prudent in his conduct. -Ruth had the honor of including among her descendants the great kings David and Solomon, and above all, Jesus the Christ, through his mother.

LESSONS HINTS.

The sure reward of filial devotion and trust in the Lord.

The overruling providence of God in the private affairs of a humble family, as well as in the events of nations.

The important lesson "that God is no respecter of persons; but in every nation he that feareth God, and worketh righteousness, is accepted of him."

Every soul decides to turn back to the sinful world, as did Orpah, or to press on to know God, as did Ruth.

When your friends are returning to God, it is a favorable time for you to accompany them.

A woman may be brave without being bold.

Ruth as a model daughter.

Ruth's conduct as a daughter-inlaw is worthy of all imitation.

God may suffer the righteous to fall into want and suffering for a time; but when he has tried them, he will bring them forth as gold refined and burnished.

A GOOD CHRISTMAS PRESENT.—You are thinking, perhaps, of making a Christmas present to your son or daughter who is away from the home roof. That is right. Wouldn't the INTELLIGENCER be a good present? It would tell them home news, religious and secular, all the year, besides furnishing them a great variety of helpful reading. Send it to them.

The Chamberlain's at Home.

It will be interesting to our readers to know what kind of a home Mr. Chamberlain has taken his wife, and an exchange gives the following description of it:

Highbury, the home to which Mr Chamberlain has taken his American bride, is too new to be beautiful from an English point of view, though it is situated in one of the loveliest spots of the altogether lovely Midlands.

During the past three years, and particularly since his return from America in the spring, Mr. Chamberlain has devoted a good deal of time and money in beautifying Highbury. The house is considered a model of English gothic in terra cotta and red brick. The rooms in it surround a central hall, Moorish fashion, making a galleried encl sure large enough for 500 people to stand in very comfortably. The pretty panel decorations and antique furniture in this hall are the particular pride of Mr. Chamberlain's accomplished daughter, who is only a year or two younger than his new American

The drawingroom is the purely æsthetic feature of the house, though all the other apartments are more or less in harmony with it. The ceiling is made of deepstained satin-wood panels set off with walnut. The walls are covered with a flowered silk material and the furniture is made of ebony, inlaid with ivory.

Mr. Chamberlain's conservatories are famous in England, and are mainly devoted to his pet orchids. The hot-house covers nearly an acre of ground. Mr. Chamberlain's love for orchids amounts almost to a passion.

Besides the orchid-house there are vineries, peacheries, a great ro / of cucumber frames, a rose-house and flower garden, and a small kitchen garden. Yet nothing among all these makes a nobler show than the great banks of closelygrown rhododendrons which crown the summit of the grounds, and which, in the early summer, are a sight for the eyes to feast upon.

Mr. Chamberlain's attractive daughter has for three years been a belle of the London drawing-rooms. She was introduced into society there in 1880, when her father became a Cabinet Minister. After due presentation at Court she was fairly affoat on the social sea.

It is fourteen years since Mr. Chamberlain's second wife died, and almost before she grew to womanhood the daughter took the care of the Birmingham household in her hands. This wedding will re lieve her of this responsibility, but if the gossip one hears in Birmingham be true itwill not be very long before she will assume similar reaponsibilities under slightly altered conditions. Miss Chamberlain's friends call her "an accomplished and delightful young lady." She paints well, sings well, plays tennis well, rides well and knows how to say a witty thing. She has an oval face, with dark eyes and dark hair, which it is her fad to dress in oldfashioned, simple style. Her face has not the fresh color common with English girls, but it is refined and gentle looking. She can afford to dress richly, and she

TEMPERANCE DIRECTORY.

INATIONAL DIVISION.

M. W. P., Rev. R. Alder Temple, Halifax

N. S.
M. W. A., A. A. Baldwin, New Haven. Conn.
M. W. Scribe, B. R. Jewell, Boston, Mass.
M. W. Treas., J. H. Roberts, Boston Mass.
M. W. Chap., Rev. E. R. Young. Bowman

M. W. Con., S. B. Patterson, St. John, N.B. M. W. Sent., E. B. Caldwell, Athens, Tenn.

GRAND DIVISION S. OF T.

G. W. P.—James Watts, Woodstock.
G. W. A.—A. Y. Patterson, Portland.
G. S.—David Thomson, St. John.
G. Treas.—W. C. Whittaker, St. John.
G. Chap.—C. N. Vroom, St Stephen.
G. C.—Isaac Crawford, Campbellton.
G. S.—Wm. T. Robinson, Gibson.

NOVA SCOTIA.

G. W P.-P. Monaghan, P. O Box 317, Halifax, N. S. G. S.—Rev. R. Alder Temple, Halifax. NEW BRUNSWICK. 9

G. W. P.— Jas Watts, Woodstock. G. S.—D. Thompson, St John.

G. W. P. -Simon W. Crabbe, Charlottetown G. S. -Jesse S. Burns, Lower Freetown, ONTARIO

G. W. P.—Thomas Webster, Paris. G. S.—W. H. Bewell, Whitby. QUEBEC.

G. W. P.—William Smith, Montreal. G. S.—William Dagg, Montreal. NEWFOUNDLAND.

G, W. P.—W. R. Stirling, St. John's. G. S.—A. W. Martin, Box 295, St. John's. MANITOBA AND N. W. T.

G. W. P.—Geo. P. Bliss, Winnipeg G. S.—James McQuaid, Winnipeg. EASTERN NEW YORK.

G W P, Edward Crummey, Poughkeepsie. G S, Mrs. E H Hopkins, 343 E 119th St. New York City. WESTERN NEW YORK. G W P, Frank Dilts, Fulton, Oswego.Co.

G S, H S McCollum, St. Catharines, Ont.

NEW JERSEY. G W P, Rev A G VanAken, III Gerge St., New Brunswick

G S, Henry B Howell, Trenton. MARYLAND AND D C.

G W P, Dr. Charles Billingslea, Westminister. G S, R T Smith, 102 West Fayette Street, Baltimore

PENNSYLVANIA. G W P, Wm. McCoach, 2015 Sansom Street Philadelphia.

G S, Harry C Jones, 118 S 7th Street, Phila-

CONNECTICUT.

G W P, John M Dorman, Stratford. G S, Chas. W Dambacher, Box 797, New Haven. MASSACHUSETTS.

G W P, Duncan C McInnis, Pitsfield. G S. C E Dennett, 36 Bromfield St., Boston MAINE. G W P, Frederick Steeves, Cumberland Mills.

GS, Patrick Hayes, Box 36, Chelsea. OHIO.

G W P, Chas. P Smith, Bedford. G S, E J Morris, 8 & 10 W 3rd St. Cincinnati. ILLINOIS.

G W P, J B Halifax, Grand Crossing, G S, M D Forrest, 25 Walnut St. Chicago. RHODE ISLAND. G W P, Smith Quimby, Hill's Crove.

GS, N B Bowels, 136 Oxford St., Providence. MISSOURI.

G W P, Denton C Thomas, Palmyra. G S, Thomas E Curd, Palmyra.

NEW HAMPSHIRE. G W P, F W Flanders, Wilmot Flat. G S, H F Smart, 28 S Main St., Racine.

WISCONSIN.

G W P, Mary E. Lunn, 109 8th Street Rachine.

G S, John C Lunn, 727 Villa Street, Rachine.

CALIFORNIA. GWP, Stephen Bowers, San Buenaven-

ture. G S, E J Tuggey, 1358; Stephenson St.,

GS, Edward Williams, Jacksonviile."

VIRGINIA, JR. G W P, E M Vick, Crabbe Street, Ports-

GS, WH Pointdexter, 510 10th Street,

Lynchburg.

MICHIGAN. G WP, Mrs. M CFisher, Detroit. (act'g). G S, Joseph Falk, Ypsilanti.

MINNESOTA.

G W P, Mrs. A T Anderson, 1919 5th

Avenue, Rachine.
G S, Miss M A B Jewett, 739 Monroe Street, N E Minneapolis.

BAHAMAS.

G W P, Wm. A Johnson, Harbor Island. G S. S M Sweeting, Harbor Island.

G W P, C W Henderson, Mt. Carmel.

G S, Scott Shoemaker, 283 York Street, Newport. NORTH CAROLINA.

G W P. James Butterick, Asheville. GS, PA Cummings, Asheville. DELAWARE.

GWP, Alfred E Bott, 1035 W7th St., Wilmington. GS, SN Fogg, 600 W 12th Street, Wil-

mington. WEST VIRGINIA.

G W P, Jesse Jones, Wolf Creek, Mon-

G S, Rev. J Edgar Wilson, Union Monroe Co.

Place of Meeting, Divisions, Numbers Night of Meeting, and name of Deputies.

St. Stephen; Howard, 1; Friday; S. Webber; Milltown, St. Stephen; Wilberforce, 3; Monday. H. McAllister. H. McAllister.

Market Building, St. John; Gurney, 5; Thurs day; John P. Bell.

Orange Hall Portland; Portland, 7; Monday; A. Y. Paterson.

Market Building, St. John; Albion, 14; Monday; E. A. Everett.

Gagetown; Queens, 21; Saturday; H. J. De Veber.

Chatham; Northumberland, 37; Friday; G. Stothart.

St. John; Mariners and Mechanics, 38; Tuesday; John I Steeves

Sackville, West. Co.; Sackville, 40; Tuesday

J. C. Harper.

Sackville, West. Co.; Sackville, 19.
J. C. Harper.
Richibucto, Kent Co.; Richibucto, 42; Wednesday; A. Haines.
Newcastle; Newcastle, 45; Thursday; Jas.

Falconer.
Point de Bute, West. Co. Westmorland, 50;
Thursday; Jas. W. Colpitts.
Hopewell Hill, Albert Co; Golden Rule, 51
Tuesday; L. R. Moore,
enfield, Charlotte Co.; Safeguard, 58; Saturday; H C Trynor.
Cambridge, Queen's Co., Johnston, 62; Saturday; George S. Wilson,
Dalhousie; Dalhouse, 64; Monday; G. Haddow
Baie Verte; Baie Verte, 65; Wednesday; R. Goodwin. Falconer.

Baie Verte; Baie Verte, 65; Wednesday; R.
Goodwin.
Dover, West. Co.; Dover. 70; Saturday;
Alfred E. Steeves.
Carleton, St. John; Granite Rock, 77; Tuesday;
John C. Thomas.
Derby, North. Co.; Nelson, Monday; J. Betts 99
Douglastown, North. Co.; Caledonia, 126; Tueday; J. Henderson.
Collina Corner, Kings Co.; Collina, 129; Thurs
day: Jacob I. Keirstead.

Wills.
Bamford Settlement, North Co., Blissfield, N.
347, Saturday, David Bamford, Deputy.
Carleton, St. John, Tilley, [No. 348, Monday
Herbert B. Belyea.
Marysville, Vork Co., Marysville, No. 349;
Friday, A 8 Morissey.
Sunnie Brea, West. Co., Fairview, No.
Monday, A R Blake.
Springfield (White's Corner) King's Co, Sunbeam, No. 351, Tuesday, Oscar Davis.

Upper Gagetown, Queens Co.; Oxford, 130; Saturday; James E. Coy. Benton, Carleton Co.; Garibaldi, 151; A. F Campbell. Campbell.
St. Martins, St. John Co; St. Martins, 164
Tuesday; Samuel Osborn
Moncton; Moncton, 183; Monday; F. W. Steeves
Douglas, York Cc.; Dunphy's W O. Farmers
190; Saturday; Arthur W Ross.
Salisbury, West. Co; Crystal Stream, 191
Monday; C A Beck.
South Bay, St. John Co.; Lime Rock, 207
Monday; Wm. Roxborough,
Milford, St. John Co.; Everett, 238; Tuesday
Geo. H. Waring.
Mor Aton; Intercolonial 243; Friday; MissVena Fawcett
Victoria Mills, West. Co.; Victoria 245, m

Vena Fawcett
Victoria Mills, West. Co.; Victoria, 245; Thurs
day; A. J. Main.
Baillie, St. James, Char. Co.; Baillie, 248; Wed.
nesday; John A. Robinson.
Weldford, Kent. Co; Harcourt, 249; Saturday;
H. Wathen.
Portland; Valley, 250; Tuesday; J. Fowler.
Butternut Ridge, King's Co.; Havelock 251
Friday; E. Keith.
Petitcodiac, West. Co.; Petitcodiac, 252 Tuesday D. A. Jonah.
Lewis Mountain, West. Co.; Sunnyside, 253
Saturday; John Lounsbury.
Millstream, Kings Co. Pritannia, 255; Saturday

Millstream, Kings Co. Pritannia, 255!; Saturday
C. W. Weyman.
Little Ridge, Char. Co.; Spreading Oak, 256;
Tuesday; A. F. Matheson. Fredericton; Landowne, 257; Thursday; H. H.

Pitts.
River Charlo, Rest. Co.; Charlo, 259; Thursday;
J. H. Galbraith.
teeves' Mountain, West. Co.; Mountain Rose
260; Saturday; R. Lutz, Br.
Famorion, King's Co.; Spring, 262; Monday
C Jarnes'
Pomroy Ridge, Char. Co.; Mayflower 263
Thursday; W. Moulton.
Scotch Ridg: Char. Co.; Iona, 264; Wednesday; D. M. Sinclair.
Oak Hill, Char Co.; Oak, 265; Thursday; Harry
E' Grimmer.

E' Grimmer.
Tower Hill, Char. Co.; Wills, 266; Saturday

S. S. Smith. 2d Falls, St. George Char. Co.; Stewart, 269

2d Falls, St. George Char. Co.; Stewart, 269
Saturday; A. Sherwood.
St. George, Char. Co.; Red Granite, 270; Saturday; Chas. Johnson.
Penobsquis, King's Co.; Cardwell, 271; Wednesday; Oscar Stevens.
Hampton Village, King's Co.; Hampton, 273
Tuesday Chas. Frost.
St. John, 102 King Street; Gordon Division
No. 275; Monday; Robert Maxwell.
Eagle Settlement West'd Co.; Twilight, 267
Tuesday; G. A. Taylor. TENNESSEE.

G W P, Gabriel Height, 616 N Spring Street, Baltimore.

WERMONT.

G W P, Rev. F D Handy, Mechanics-ville.

G S, H C H Lewis, Lock Box 843, Bellow's Falls.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

G W P, John Alexander, Columbia.
G S, Fred S Dibble, Orangeburg.
FLORIDA.

G W P, Fred S Seavy, Jacksonville.
G S, Edward Williams, Jacksonville.
G S, Edward Williams, Jacksonville.
G S, Edward Williams, Jacksonville.

Bath Carleton Co.; Ray of Hope, 294; Friday; W. D. Keith.
Lower Coverdale, Albert Co.; Coverdale 295
Tuesday; F. A. Steeves.
Canterbury, York Co.; Duflerin, 296; Saturday
John W Scott
River Louison, Restigouche Co.; Louison, 297
Friday; Donald Stewart.
Kirkland, Carleton Co.; Monument, 298; Thurs
day; John Lyons, Deputy
Woodstock, Carleton Co.; Campbell, 299; Friday; S. McLeod.
Campbellton, Restigouche Co. Campbellton.
300; Monday; J. C. Furguson.
Dundee, Restigouche Co.; Dundee, 302; Tuesday; Jas. Malcolm.
Morcambe, P. O., Kings Co.; Rising Star, 303.
Wednesday; Martin Freeze.
Scotch Settlement, Westmorland Co.; McCarthy
304; Wednesday; David H. Murray.
Upper Millstream, Kings Co.; Millstream, 305
Mcnday; Zebulon Gaunce
Gibson, York Co.; Gibson. 306; Friday; J.
H. Hamilton.
Case Settlement, Kings Co.; Snowflake, 307.
Monday, C. E. Black.
Portland, N. B.; Silver, 308; Friday
Rev. J. Spencer.
Old Ridge, Chat. Co.; Brunswick Division. No

Rev. J. Spencer.
Old Ridge, Char. Co.; Brunswick Division, No 309; Monday; R W Dinsmore
Waterside, Parish of Harvey, Albert Co Gladstone No. 311; Friday; Rev. S. O

Waterside, Parish of Harvey, Albert Co Gladstone No. 311; Friday; Rev. S. O Moore.
Kingsclear, York Co.; Kingsclear, 315; Wednesday; Isaac Kilburn, Deputy,
Buctouche, Kent Co; Buctouche, No. 317
Tuesday; Wm. Wry.
Mount Middleton, Kings Co.; Mount Middleton, 318; Friday; Joseph Chapman.
McKenzie Corner, Carleton Co., McKenzie Corner Livision 319 Friday; Jas. Forest.
Stylesville, Westmorland Co.; Mapleville, 329
Saturday; James McFarlane.
ayfield, Westmorland Co.; Bayfield, 321
BMonday; A. W. Bent.
Clark's Corner, Queens Co; Clark's Corner, 325
Thursday; Isaac H. Carle.
Fredericton, No. 2 Gordon, No. 326; Wednes:
day, Sergt. Major McKenzie.
Smith's Corner, Walker's W. O, Kent Co.
Olive Branch 327 Saturday, Ephraim Wheten
Berry Mills West Co. Millville, 328, Monday
John T. Prince.
Blackville, Northumberland Co.; Blackville,
329; Wednesday; E. W. Gaynor;
Black Brook, North. Co; Silver Stream, 330;
Wednesday; Wm. Tait.
Tattagouche, Gloucester Co; Forest Home,
331; Thursday, Richard Bell.
Bathurst, Gloucester Co;; Ever Onward, 332,
Monday, Dr. Wm. P. Bishop.
Dalhousie Junction, Restigouche Co., Maple
Green; 333; Wednesday, Wm. Jamison.
Little River, Buctouche, Kent Co. Forest
View No. Co 334: Monday, Chas. E. Hicks.
Upper Woodstock, Jubilee 335, Wednesday,
John Burpee.
Napan, North Co., Napan, No. 336 Thursday
Alex Dickson.
Presque Isle, Connell P. O. Carleton Co;
Dawn of Hope No. 337 Tuesday!; John N.
Perry.
Bloomfield Corner, Carleton Co; Unity No.

Perry.

Bloomfield Corner, Carleton Co; Unity No. 338 Saturday, Alex Strong.

Mapleton, Albert Co., Mapleton, No 339, Tues day. J A M Colpitts.

Boiestown, North. Co. Boiestown, No. 341, Wednesday; Rev Thos. Allen.

Little River, Albert Co.; Princes Louise, No. 342; Saturday; Sanford Parkin.

Moncton, Bulmer. No. 343, Saturday; James M. Murray, deputy.

Caraquet, Gloucester Co., Caraquet, No. 344, Saturday, J W Young 2

Ludlow, Northumbertand Co., Pine Grove, No. 345, Thursday, Frederick Price.

St. John, Excessior, No. 346, Tuesday, Robert Wills.