

A Christmas Carol.

"What means this glory round our feet."
The angel mused, "more bright than
morn";
And voices, chanting, clear and sweet,
"To day the Prince of Peace is born."

"What means that star, 'the shepherd's
said,
'That brightens through the rocky glen?'"
And angels answering overhead
Sang "Peace on earth, good will to
men!"

"Tis eighteen hundred years and more
Since those sweet oracles were dumb;
We wait for Him like those of yore;
Alas! he seems so slow to come.

But it was said in words of gold
No time or sorrow e'er shall dim,
That little children might be told
In perfect trust to come to him,

All round about our feet shall shine
A light like that the wise men saw,
If we our loving wills incline
To that sweet life which is the law.

So shall we learn to understand
The simple faith of shepherds then,
And, clasping kindly hand in hand,
Sing, "Peace on earth, good-will to men!"

And they who do their souls no wrong,
But keep at eve the faith of morn,
Shall daily hear the angels' song,
"To-day the Prince of Peace is born!"

—James Russell Lowell

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES.

NEW BRUNSWICK

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Presidents, 1st, District, Rev. J. N.
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3rd, Miss J. J. Robinson; 4th, Rev.
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Treasurer—Miss Lavinia Sargeant.

TOPICS FOR DECEMBER 1894.

December.

4th Week—Carrying to others
the Christmas joy. Isa. 9: 2-7.
(A missionary topic.)

5th Week—Looking backward.
Ps. 145: 1-21. (An experience
meeting.)

A Good Letter.

"Our department" is becoming
very interesting indeed, and, I trust,
will be a benefit to many. If a cor-
respondent may be allowed, I would
suggest that each society give a
regular report of its work, what it
is doing and hopes to do. I
notice that sometimes secretaries
report their business meetings with
the names of officers &c. Now it
seems to me this is largely a waste
of time and space. There is nothing
particularly suggestive or helpful in
it, for we all elect officers regularly
in the same old way. Instead, tell
us of the reports of your committee,
how many the Look out or Highway
and Hedge committees brought into
the society last month, how they did
their work; what your missionary
committee is doing and their plans;
your sociables, how you manage
them and their success. Above all
means do not forget to let us hear
from you prayer meeting; and if
you are introducing any new features
to make them more interesting we
want to know it. If your members
are being led to a higher life, and
associate members are becoming
active it will cheer our hearts, we
will take courage and go forward.

During the last month the society
of which your correspondent is a
member, held cottage meetings in-
stead of the regular meeting in the
church. This month we are back
to the church again; and we are
glad to report that in our last meet-
ing there was a decided increase in
interest. While we were holding
cottage meetings we went where-
ever we were invited or could do
good; if there were any sick ones
who cared to have us meet with
them we gladly went and endeavoured
to cheer their hearts by the glad
message in song and testimony.
Next night of meeting our pastor
has promised a Bible reading on the
subject assigned. Occasionally we
drop a subject as assigned and have,
instead, a prayer and praise meeting;
these are meetings especially inspir-
ing on account of the true spirit of
worship and praise; the presence of
the Holy Spirit is manifest.

There is one thing I would like
to suggest to the members of the
League; it is that we seek to ex-
tend the circulation of the INTELLI-
GENCER. The sustaining of the
paper should be upon the hearts of
all Free Baptists; especially the
young men and women should be

interested. The editor has laboured
long and faithfully. Let us do our
part. What can we do? Pray for
it; work up its subscription list.
At the Marysville convention 487
active members were reported; is it
not possible that each member can
secure a new subscriber during the
year? Let us try. The INTELLI-
GENCER is the organ of our denomina-
tion, and it should be taken by
every Free Baptist before any other.
A. B. C.

Make It a Good Year.

Dear Young Comrades,—In a re-
cent article in the INTELLIGENCER
the editor said that this year should
be better in every respect than its
predecessors. There should be more
general revival and improved spiri-
tual life, in every church, a larger
number of conversions, more young
peoples societies and more earnest
christian work by them all.

The light of the Gospel, "which
is the power of God unto salvation,"
is beaming forth as never before
and the members of our young
peoples societies should feel that the
command "Go ye into all the world
and preach the Gospel to every
creature" is intended for them, and
awaken in their minds, among
other questions, this one of first
importance to all Christ's followers,
How can we best bring young peo-
ple to Christ?

If there is one act in this life
more to be rewarded than another,
it is that of leading a soul to the
recognition of the Divine Power,
and thereby becoming instrumental
in the salvation of that soul. There
is no royal road to the heart, and if
you fail in bringing a soul for whom
you have been praying and working,
you have not been the first to fail.
Christ did not reach the heart of
the rich young ruler who came
to him saying, "Lord, what shall
I do to inherit eternal life?"
When he had professed that
he had kept all the commandments,
Christ said, "One thing thou lackest;
go thy way, sell that thou hast and
give to the poor." "But the young
man went away sorrowful, for he
had great possessions." Christ had
not won him.

Let us who are christians live
such true, earnest lives that others
will be led to Christ. Do not let
them get the impression that to be-
come a christian would in any de-
gree detract from their happiness.
Be happy in your religion. A long-
faced, solemn-voiced christian is not
successful in winning souls. Cultivate
a close acquaintance, you will
then understand what they lack;
then pray for them. More things
are wrought by prayer than the
world dreams of. And pray believing
that prayer will be answered.

Do not ask an unbeliever to ac-
company you on the first evening
of your acquaintance to a mid-week
prayer-meeting if you know the
character of that meeting usually is
much as to cause him to think that
"no one but old folks" (and few of
them) are interested in religion.
In the first place, there ought not
to be such a prayer-meeting. C. E.'s
and A. C. F.'s ought to have a
greater interest in their mid-week
prayer-meetings than to allow such
a state of things to exist. Such
prayer-meetings do exist, I am sorry
to say. But I do not wish to be
understood as advocating that the
mid-week prayer-meeting is not a
most excellent place for the con-
version of sinners. It is usually
the most spiritual meeting of the
church, but if the young people of
the church have not become interest-
ed in it, do not expect the unbeliever
to be.

Make the stranger feel at home
in the meetings; give him a cordial
hand shake; introduce him to the
followers of the Lord. Do not let
him go away feeling as if he had
been holding communion with the
cold rocks of some mountain canyon;
but, no, I cannot say that, for 'tis
sweet communion to sit alone with
God and muse on the wonderful
works of nature; let me say rather
save him from the melancholy
brooding of a homesick soul whose
return home was not welcomed by
any familiar face or place.

Touching the social side of the
question, every social or entertain-
ment ought to be reported as win-
ning one soul or more for Christ,
rather than five dollars raised for a
new church carpet or twenty dollars
for some other such purpose.
Would it not be grander? Would
you not feel better for being one of
many who were instrumental in
doing such a work?

Try to reflect the superiority of
christian motives over worldly
motives, and none can tell but Him
who knows all things when a soul
may decide to accept salvation.
The power of example is a mighty
factor in christian work. Even as
children imitate and cite the acts of
companions and parents, so do those
whom we are leading in the—to
them—new and strange path of life.

As to personal work—to save
souls one must surrender all to that
aim. Dear young people, may each
one strive to lead at least one soul
to Christ this year.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year.
Yours in christian service.
LIZZIE V. PROSSER.
Kemptville, N. S.
Dec. 1894.

WOODSTOCK.—The Y. P. S. of C.
E. in connection with the Wood-
stock F. C. B. church, is in a flour-
ishing condition. Not only has the
society a large roll of membership,
but every member seems interested
in the Christian Endeavour work.
No one can doubt that the society is
exerting a great influence for good
among the young people, which in-
fluence is being and must continue to
be felt by the church.

On Thanksgiving day, the young
people had a supper in "Coles Hall,"
which was well patronized; the pro-
ceeds netted nearly eighty dollars,
which amount was appropriated
towards the payment of the new
pipe organ, recently placed in the
church.

Com.

ANOTHER SOCIETY.—I organized
an A. C. F. Society at Keirstead
Mountain, K. Co., with 14 active
and 4 associate members.
A. H. McLEOD.

Carrying To Others The
Christmas Joy.

ISA. IX 2-7. (A MISSIONARY MEETING.)

We do not know the name of the
author of the following quotation,
but it is so appropriate that we give
it a place here:—

"Christma should be fatal to
meanness. Self should drop out of
sight. Hearts should expand.
Sympathies enlarge. Good will
ought to reign upon the throne of
our being. Let benedictions drop
from lip, and substantial gifts fall
from overflowing hand. Make
cheerless homes radiant, and hope-
less hearts to thrill with unspeak-
able gladness. Forgive your enemies,
if you have any. Bury the past.
Rise above the mean and petty re-
sentments which you have harbored
against those who have not used
you well. Be generous. Get ready
to start the New Year with more
kindly feelings and more noble
ambitions than have actuated you
in the days that are gone. Jesus came
to earth to spread universal good-
will among men, and you will par-
take of the true Christmas spirit
only as you are filled with love to-
ward all who are touched by your
influence."

Why do we observe the custom
of giving gifts at Christmas? Partly
to commemorate the fact that it
was about this season God gave His
Son, His supreme Gift, to the world;
partly to commemorate the fact that
it was about this season the wise
men from the East presented their
gifts of gold, frankincense and
myrrh to the infant Saviour.

Occasionally we see protests in
the newspapers against the custom
of bestowing presents at Christmas.
It is alleged that it savors of selfish-
ness to bestow gifts at this season
because we expect to receive as
many, and as costly gifts as we give.
Is that complaint well founded? We
do not think so, for, as some one has
said, "A kindly reciprocity is not
selfishness; it is right to interchange
evidences of love and good-will
among those bound to each other by
ties of affection." It is urged
further that Christmas gifts are ex-
pensive, and that the bestowal of
them sometimes becomes a burden.
There may be a measure of truth in
this, but if we have been giving ex-
travagantly it would be better to
curb the extravagance than to
abolish the custom altogether. It
would be better to give according to
our means than to deprive ourselves
of the blessed privilege of giving.
Better to bestow a small gift cheer-
fully than a large one grudgingly.

To whom should the Christmas
joy especially be carried? To those
who have it not. In the days of
Nehemiah a great congregation as-
sembled in Jerusalem for the pur-
pose of worshipping God and hear-
ing His law expounded. As the
service was drawing to a close,
Nehemiah said, "Go your way; eat
the fat and drink the sweet and
send portions unto them for whom
nothing is prepared." His advice
was acted upon immediately, for all
the people went there way to eat,
to drink, and to send portions (Neh.
viii. 10-12). If the returned cap-
tives at that time felt that they had
good reason to show kindness to
those who were not so highly favor-
ed as they, surely we, at this joyous
season, should be glad to extend our
help and sympathy to those who re-
quire them!

In the days of Esther, and for a
considerable time afterwards, the
Jews in Shushan annually observed
the fourteenth day of the month
Adar as a day when their sorrow
was turned into joy. By feasting;
by sending portions to one another;
and by giving gifts to the poor
(Esther ix. 22). If they felt it right
to observe, in the manner indicated,
a day around which so many blessed
memories centered and so many
happy associations clustered, it well
becomes us to worthily celebrate a

day which reminds us of God's
mercy and good-will toward us.
They doubtless felt that to share
their blessings with others enlarged
the sympathy and provided a check
to natural selfishness.

How great and how manifold the
reasons which should prompt us to
carry the Christian's joy to others!
This day which speaks of the Incar-
nation of Christ tells us also that
His Incarnation sanctifies poverty
because Christ was born in a low
estate. He lived a life of poverty
and He esteems kindness to the
poor as kindness to Himself (Matt.
xxv. 40). The Incarnation is a
ground for thanksgiving and our
thanks should find expression in
deeds of kindness, love and sym-
pathy. The poor we have always
with us, and especially at this season
should we do them good. They
may not be able to recompense us
but we shall be recompensed at the
resurrection of the just (Luke xiv
14).

A Practical Suggestion.

"I've outgrown my mittens, mam-
ma! See?"

"So you have and they're all
whole and good, too. Well drop
them in the gift box, and on your
way to school stop in at Mr. White's
store and buy a pair. It's so cold
this morning that you can't do with-
out them very well."

"And now, my dear woman, will
you tell me what is a gift box?"
asked cousin Alice, who had arrived
the night before for a long visit,
and who was anxious to understand
the ways of the household as soon
as possible.

"Why, certainly; a gift box is
just that—no more or less."

"But I never heard of one before."

"Possibly not. The box itself is
only an ordinary packing box with
a fitted cover, and its contents range
all the way from an advertising
card up to a dress or coat. Some-
times it is nearly full, and some-
times nearly empty; and you would
be surprised to see the amount that
goes into it in the course of a year."

"And then do you send the con-
tents off to some public charity,
Mary?"

"Yes, and then sometimes we
have calls nearer home. There are
a great many poor people in this
place, and a mission and hospital,
so there are plenty of avenues for
giving. A large family like ours
has a good many 'cast-offs' in spite
of all the turning and making over
which I do, and we used to put such
things in the attic and store room,
and often would come some unex-
pected call for help, and I would
know I had just the article that
was wanted, but could not lay my
hands on it or think were it had been
placed until, perhaps the opportunity
had passed entirely by. And that
is now the gift box became an in-
stitution."

"And a very sensible and practical
one, too, I am sure. I would like
to see its contents sometimes Mary."

"It has very little in it now. Cold
weather and holidays have made
many demands on its generosity.
We put nothing in it until it is fit
for use—I mean that everything
must be clean and mended, and if
past that, the best piece cut out,
which will often make a jacket or
skirt for a little child. Bits of old
linen and lint and muslin bandages
often go into it, and are often cal-
led for, and when we have an ac-
cumulation of odds and ends we
buy some cheap dolls and dress them
and at Christmas time find no lack
of places for them. Every one of
the family has the gift box in mind,
and so nothing goes to waste. I
really think it has been an educator
in the way of careful saving habits
for us all, as a means of good to
others. This year as the holidays
approached the children seemed to
be on a strife almost, as to which
one could spare the most for the
box; and not only that, but they
were on the lookout for places where
the things would be acceptable as
well, and enjoyed their bestowal. I
wouldn't be at all surprised if Jen-
nie finds a candidate for the mittens
before night. She is sure to be on
the watch for one."

"Will you mind if I follow your
example Mary, and perhaps tell it
to others?"

"Why, I shall be delighted for
my gift box to have hundreds of
duplicates!"

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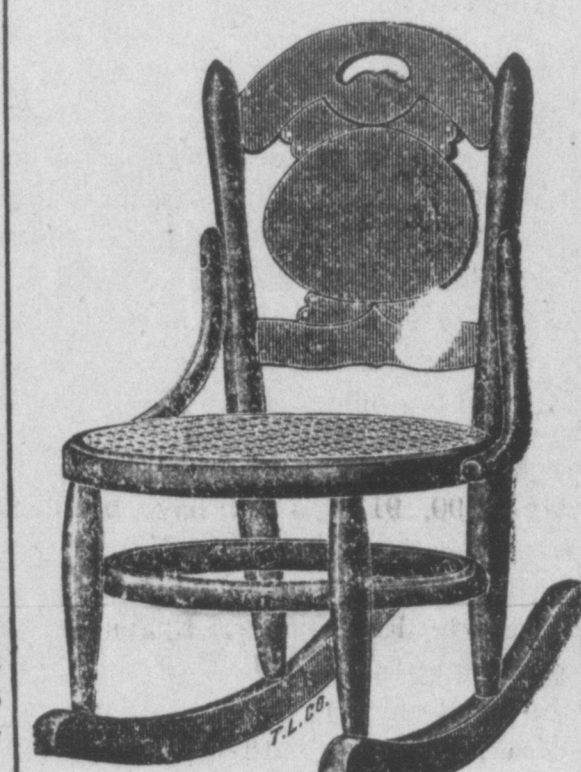
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SEPTEMBER 1894.

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