

pretty little animal enjoying its life and liberty without attempting to kill or make it a prisoner.

Opposite a station on one of the railways leading out of St. John stood a small bilberry tree on a path leading into one of the prettiest little rural cemeteries to be found in the country. In June, when the white blossoms of this beautiful tree enlivened the fresh green of the foliage, it was attacked by a horde of young people and literally torn limb from limb. Thus, to gratify a destructive instinct, and win a few flowers that would soon fade, a tree was destroyed that was a picture on the landscape and that must have proved a source of pleasure to hundreds of railway passengers every day.

Instances might be multiplied of this thoughtless tendency to disregard the rights of others. Teachers can do much to check it by impressing on the children that harmless wild animals are as interesting to watch at their play, and have as much right to live, as the tame ones about their homes; and that in picking flowers, those that others are accustomed to see and enjoy daily should be spared.

The *Winnipeg Free Press*, whose editorials on educational subjects are always thoughtful and well written, closes an article on the need of good English with the following excellent suggestions:

"The remedy, if there is one for loose talking and worse writing, exists in the public schools. If the language in its purity is a precious thing, and if ability to make concise, intelligent written statements is worth striving for, then more attention must be paid to the study and use of language by those who are educating the young. One in a million, perhaps, might, like Abraham Lincoln, become a master of diction in its sublimest forms after a youth of scholastic neglect, but the average person can achieve good honest every-day English only after careful training in the plastic stages of youth. Thorough training in oral and written composition is an urgent need in our educational system. At the same time these are difficult subjects to teach, because many of those whose duty it is to instruct the children in these subjects are by no means free from the prevailing inability to speak and write good English."

The schoolmaster asked the pupils: "Supposing in a family there are five children, and a mother has only four potatoes between them. Now, she wants to give every child an equal share. What is she going to do?" Silence reigned in the room. Everybody calculated very hard, till a little boy stood up, and gave the unexpected answer: "Mash the potatoes, sir."—*Christian Register*.

Our Waterfalls.

By L. W. BAILEY, LL.D.

Who does not enjoy the sight of a waterfall? What boy or girl but will choose a waterfall as the objective point of his afternoon walk if there be one within reasonable distance, and especially if this be only an occasional pleasure, as determined by the melting of the snow in spring? Why, finally, does Niagara attract probably more tourists the year round than any other single locality, in America at least.

The interest in waterfalls may arise from various causes; partly, and no doubt largely, from their beauty, appealing in ever-varying aspects to our æsthetic sense, as hardly any other natural phenomenon can; partly, it may be, because they are beloved of the finny tribes as they are by us, and at their feet are often found admirable fishing grounds; partly, perhaps, because, having only an eye to the practical side of things, we become interested in them as possible means for the generation of power; but chiefly, I fancy, because they represent the energy of Nature in action, appealing to our imagination much as does any living thing in comparison with what is inert and lifeless.

Quite apart, however, from any or all of the above considerations there are other points connected with cataracts which, to the student of Nature, make them well worthy of careful study. Thus waterfalls are of many different types, and the causes which determine these differences are well worth investigation. Waterfalls, again, like the streams with which they are connected or of which they form a part, have well defined histories, never exactly repeated. They are factors, not only in determining the limit of human navigation, but in affecting the geographical distribution of many forms of water-life, such as fish, cray-fish, etc. Drenched by their spray are to be found many beautiful forms of ferns, mosses, liverworts, etc., to be sought in vain among other surroundings. Some of these points may now be illustrated by more particular references.

Waterfalls, as regards their origin, are usually due to some obstruction to the continuous easy flow of a stream, and may therefore be found in any part of the latter, though most common in its upper courses, where, owing to the "youth" of this portion of the stream, there has not yet been time enough to wear the obstruction away. In fact waterfalls, as explained in the last chapter, are one of the indi-