

MANITOBA.

Like Ontario, this province is named from a lake. The name Manitoba (*Manitou*, the great spirit and *ba* passing), is from the Cree language and is said to mean the "Passing of the Great Spirit." At one point in the lake, the shores of which are generally low and marshy, there is a limestone bluff at which the Indians in paddling past found a strong echo, which they thought the voice of the Great Spirit, and hence called it Manitou-ba. The name of this locality became attached to the lake and afterward to the province.

SASKATCHEWAN.

Saskatchewan comes from a Cree word meaning "Swiftly Flowing River."

ALBERTA.

Alberta takes its name from Her Royal Highness, Princess Louise Caroline Alberta, wife of the Duke of Argyle and sixth child of the late Queen Victoria. The old provisional district of Alberta was created in 1882, during the Marquis of Lorne's administration as Governor General of Canada. During his term of office Their Excellencies visited the north-west, and were entertained by Lieutenant Governor Laird, at Battleford, which was then the territorial seat of the government.—*Compiled and Selected.*

The Trailing Arbutus.

I wandered lonely where the pine trees made
Against the bitter East their barricade,
And, guided by its sweet
Perfume, I found, within a narrow dell,
The trailing spring flower tinted like a shell
Amid dry leaves and mosses at my feet.
From under dead boughs, for whose loss the pines
Moaned ceaseless overhead, the blooming vines
Lifted the glad surprise,
While yet the bluebird smoothed in leafless trees
His feathers ruffled by the chill sea-breeze,
And snow drifts lingered under April skies,
As, pausing, o'er the lonely flower I bent,
I thought of lives thus lowly, clogged and pent,
Which yet find room,
Through care and cumber, coldness and decay,
To lend a sweetness to the ungenial day,
And make the sad earth happier for their bloom.

—Whittier.

Good temper is like a sunny day, it sheds its light upon everything.—*Sidney.*

Nature Study for Primary Grades.

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For the spring months suggestive topics will be the awakening of spring, how the buds grow, how soil is made, the sprouting of seeds, spring life, the piping frogs, the return of the birds, the insect larvae. Starting with the thought that mother nature is now waking from her long winter sleep, the children can be lead to watch for all the indications of her awakening. All the changes may be associated with this one great thought, Nature's rousing from her winter's rest. The sun is rising earlier in the morning, and setting later each evening; its position each noon is higher and the middle of the day is therefore growing warmer; the warm rains are soaking into the ground as the frost comes out; the green grass begins to start in favoured places; the buds on the trees and shrubs are swelling; the first flowers are peeping out in the warmest places, and seeds are beginning to feel the thrill of the new life. A few things at a time can best be handled. The children will bring in twigs and by means of these learn to recognize some of the common trees. A few words in conversational form as the twigs are brought in will lead the children to express their general observations and feelings as well as give the teacher the chance to make the right beginning in this series of spring exercises. These twigs may be trimmed and placed in separate bottles of water with the names printed and attached. By changing the water and renewing the cutting of the ends of the stems, the growth takes place more rapidly. Some twigs may be placed in the sunlight, others in the dark, to notice any difference in the growth. These twig exercises should help in the recognition of the trees of the school yard, or of those seen from the windows. The means of protection in the different buds, and their changes as they grow in the water may also be noticed. Each day the children will look carefully and report any change. Naturally comparisons will be made as the different twigs grow. The children will be interested in watching the wonderful phenomena of growth and they will be encouraged to watch for similar changes in the trees out of doors. Other signs of spring life are carefully watched and on warm days many such are