

that reserve of spiritual and mental power that has so much to do with joyous and successful living. Take leisure, and wear a cheery face.

August, a Month of Eclipses.

The harvest month has this year two eclipses, that of the moon, which occurred on the 14th inst., and, far more important, the solar eclipse on the 30th, which is one of the most interesting ones for many years. It is a total eclipse, of pretty long duration, and the line of central eclipse passes through several regions which are conveniently accessible for observing parties.

The eclipse is total at sunrise in Manitoba, just north of the United States boundary. Thence the shadow sweeps eastward across Canada, north of the settled districts, and comes out on the Labrador coast. It turns somewhat to the southward as it crosses the Atlantic, and reaches land again on the Spanish coast near Cape Finisterre. Crossing Spain, the shadow traverses the Mediterranean, passes near Tunis, enters the African desert, passes over the Nile near Assuan, and finally bids farewell to the earth somewhere in Arabia, less than three hours after it began in Canada. The duration of the total phase is greatest in Spain, where it is about 3½ minutes, while it is about 2½ minutes in Labrador, and a little less than three minutes in Egypt.

Several parties of astronomers are going to Labrador, and many more to stations in Spain and Algeria, so that a goodly store of observations may be expected if only the weather behaves as well as it did in 1900, when the track of the shadow on the European side of the ocean was almost the same as at present.

Weather permitting, a great deal of spectroscopic and other information about the sun's surroundings will undoubtedly be obtained. Perhaps the most interesting observations from an amateur's standpoint are those that will be made in the search for a possible small planet nearer the sun than Mercury, by photographing the whole region of the sky near the eclipse of the sun. This has been done at several recent eclipses, without result, only known stars being found on the plates; but the brilliant success of photographic methods in finding new satellites makes one feel that the search for an intra-Mercurial planet ought to be continued a little longer.

The finest constellations visible at this season lie near the Milky Way. We may begin with Lyra, whose brightest star, Vega, is almost overhead at 9 o'clock on an August evening. This splendid white star disputes with Arcturus and Capella the claim to be the brightest in the northern hemisphere of the sky. In fact, the order in which different observers would rank these three stars is different, not because the stars themselves vary in brightness, but because they are of very different colors, and some people have eyes more sensitive to one color than to another. When we come to consider the distances of the three stars, and their actual brightness, it appears that Vega and Capella, which are almost equally distant from us, are each about one hundred times as bright as the sun, while Arcturus, which is much more remote, is ten times as bright as either of the two.

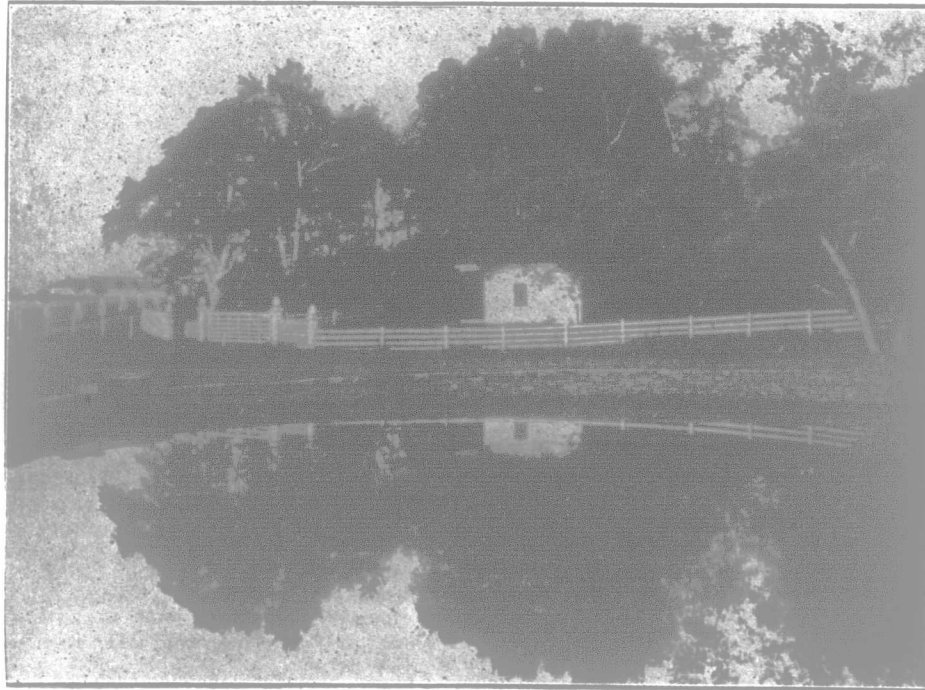
Vega serves as a pointer to several interesting objects. Close to it on the north-east is a faint star, which can be seen to be double with the naked eye by a few people with keen eyesight, or by ordinary mortals with an opera-glass. Each of the two components is a fine telescopic double. South-east of Vega, at a little greater distance, is a pair of third-magnitude stars, of which the Western one is the remarkable variable Beta Lyrae, which changes more than a magnitude in brightness with great regularity in a period of about twelve days. The line of these stars, carried eastward, points to Beta Cygni, a very fine double star in the Milky Way, well seen with a small telescope.

A Holiday in Prince Edward Island.

WE VISIT THE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS.

On enquiring upon what system the arrangement for the vans was carried out, we were told that Sir William Macdonald had included the five vans in his primary gift, and the farmers, by contract (I believe \$1.60 per day), provided the horses. The distance covered daily was four and a half miles each way, the amount paid as assessment under the old plan being turned into the general-ex-

we had given up hope of seeing anything more than the hive empty of the busy bees which seemed to have swarmed elsewhere. Issuing from under cover of the adjacent wood appeared what looked like a small troop, joyously waving banners, but all marching in line and evidently under discipline. Each child carried a stick for his peas, a flower for his garden, or a carefully-uprooted fern for transplanting, and each one knew that when lunch was eaten and school began he might be asked what he had specially observed during his outing; whether he had any incident to narrate,

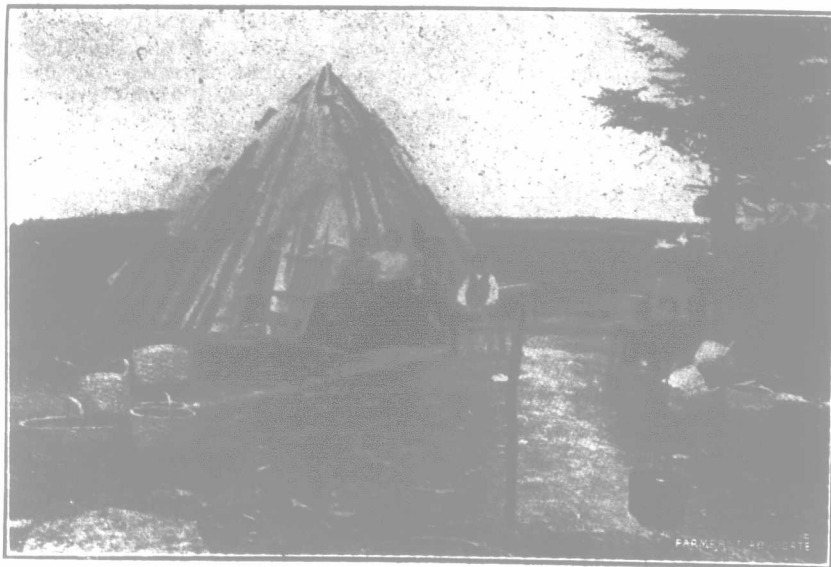


Entrance to Government House, Charlottetown, P. E. I.

pense fund, the generous donor paying the difference until the three years of trial are expired, after which the experiment will, it is anticipated, have proved of such exceptional value that its additional cost will be gladly assumed by those upon whom it should rightly fall. With this in view, unnecessary outlay is or should be avoided. Perhaps the Hillsboro' school, being built as an object lesson and as a gift to Prince Edward Island, might be more complete and more perfectly finished than such schools may require to be in the future, for, to our eyes, it certainly lacked nothing from its firm foundation and compact superstructure, its hardwood floors and ceilings, its school furnishings, and careful provision for ventilation, to its two or three acres of surrounding grounds, part of which are

anything to tell which might aid in weaving into a consecutive whole the story of their morning's excursion, thus encouraging their powers of observation, and enabling them to give form and expression to the same. Even the tinies were not excluded, a van having been brought into requisition that they might "go too," and already their kindergarten teacher had put upon the blackboard what Jennie had seen, what Mollie had brought home, and what little Jimmie had thought of the game "out of doors."

The time left to us after the return of the truants was too short for us to do more than convey to the children a short, separate greeting from our several provinces, a mere word of encouragement and good wishes, winding up, collectively, with a request to the principal that



Indian Basket Makers, P. E. I.

under cultivation from an educational standpoint, with the option of more being absorbed as it may be required. Very special care had been taken in the selection of its most capable teaching staff, all of whom are evidently upon their mettle to do their best to make a success of the big experiment.

THEY COME AT LAST.

And, talking of the teachers brings us to the manner of our introduction to them at last. "Here come the children," was the cry, just as

they might have a holiday. Remembering the ecstatic sound of the word "holiday" in my own young days, it was a dampener, indeed, to see no joyous smiles, no eyes glistening with delight. Evidently the children of the consolidated schools so thoroughly enjoy themselves at school that to them the word holiday conveys no joy. A compromise was effected at the principal's suggestion, that during the "home" time on some especial occasion, the name of which I lost in my bewilderment, the

vans should go round, gather the children together and drive them round the city to see all there was to be seen.

We returned to Charlottetown in fuller accord than ever with the wisdom of the plan for concentrating into one the scattered rural schools of Canada, and of the system adopted to train the children in something more than mere book-knowledge; a system which recognizes that every son and daughter of the soil should learn what that soil can produce, by practice as well as by theory, to look upon it with more intelligent eyes, to love Mother Nature for her generous response to their efforts to make her fruitful. The new system opens up new springs of pleasure, new sources of enjoyment, new fields to conquer.

If the lad has helped to plant the shade trees and keep them shapely around his playground, he will be the more likely to have an eye to beauty as well as to profit when he plans the laying out of the land around his homestead. If the girl has had a training in the value of foods, their amalgamating properties, and how to handle and treat them to produce the best results, she will make the better wife for the farmer or mechanic, whose quiver may be full and purse light. Of this new development, Dr. Anderson, the Chief Superintendent of Education in Prince Edward Island, reports: "The outcome is still in the future, but I can, even now, see that the indications are already present of an extending horizon, a broader sympathy, and a tendency to regard these schools as the center of light and culture in their districts."

Perhaps the best proof of the recognition given to this plan of consolidation in the Island, is a junction already made of three other districts, which received no benefaction from outside sources at all, the only help they have had being the consent of the Provincial Government to the continuance to the trustees of the joint schools of the same statutory allowances which had formerly been paid to the teachers of the three smaller schools, by which arrangement sufficient money was saved to defray the expense of the two vans which brought the children of the Lady Jane (four and a half miles) and the West Tryon (two and a half miles) districts, to the Tryon Centre. The formation of this school reads like a story, showing how good sense and foresight, backed up by patience and perseverance, and followed by energetic action, may always be counted upon to bring about success.

It will surely mean much to our land, especially in its more scattered parts, if, during the next decade, similar schools should be established throughout the length and breadth of the Dominion.

I shall have still another message to send from the "Garden of the Gulf."

H. A. B.

Where God Is.

"The parish priest
Of Austerity
Climbed up in a high church steeple,
To be nearer God,
So that he might hand
His word down to his people.

"And in his sermon script
He daily wrote
What he thought was sent from Heaven;
And he dropped this down
On his people's heads
Two times one day in seven.

"In his age, God said,
'Come down and die!'
And he cried out from the steeple,
'Where art Thou, Lord?'
And the Lord replied,
'Down here among the people.'"

"There," said one old crony to another, to whom he was showing the lions of a Scottish town, "that's the statue of Bailie Watson!" "Is it no' a guld bit larger than life-size, though?" queried his friend.

"Ou, aye, it's a' that, but it's no' a bit bigger than the Bailie thocht he was himsel'!"

She—What would you do, George, if you were left a widower? He—Oh, I suppose pretty much the same as you would do if you were left a widow. She—O, you wretch! And you always told me you would never love anybody else."