

purpose we have in view in desiring to possess the negatives is, that we may be able to publish sets, so that photographers may see what is done in Ontario, and to learn how much improvement we can make prior to another competition.

We have already a long list of competitors for our prize, and a variety of suggestions as to prints from the negatives, nearly every competitor wishing to have copies of the full set. More than one correspondent suggests that our prize should take the shape of a gold and silver medal. This would limit the number of our prizes to two—a gold medal, suitably inscribed, worth \$35, as first prize, and a silver medal, worth \$15, as second. Let us know by an early day, is it to be money or a gold and silver medal? If before next issue the majority of our correspondents approve of the suggestion as to the medal, we shall take it for granted, and have one prepared ready for engraving the name of the successful candidate. Will intending competitors kindly forward their names?

Have you ordered your Alba Plates?

A BATH THREE YEARS OLD.

BY W. H. SHERMAN.

The first week in September, 1871, after a series of experiments, I prepared the bath which I am now using, and which has been in constant use ever since. It has never been boiled, nor have any means been employed to rid it of ether or alcohol, and there has never been a drop of alcohol added to the developer used in connection with it. It was sunned at first to precipitate any substance susceptible to the action of light, since which, exposure to sunlight has failed to produce hardly a perceptible effect upon the solution, usually not causing discoloration. It originally measured six gallons, at about which quantity it has been maintained most of the time by such additions, as required, of solution composed and prepared precisely as the original bath, except that no salt of iodine has been added with the subsequently prepared portions. It works to-day (September 26th, 1874) in every respect as well as it did three years ago; *as well*, at least, and, if my recollection is not at fault, decidedly *better*.

Without enlarging further upon the merits or peculiarities of this bath, I will say that the experiment seems to be an import-